



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Algeria

Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, said the banning of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was done by the authority of the administrative court, and that the ban will remain in force, Algiers radio reported. The police seized the latest issue of EL FORKANE, the FIS journal, the radio continued, adding that members of two fundamentalist groups were arrested in separate incidents. Blaming inaccurate reports in Paris media, an Algiers television commentary accused France of trying to destabilize the country. Noting that "veterans of the Afghan war" are implicated in attacks on police, Algiers radio said members of the group are "fascinated by the extremist methods" used by guerrillas in Afghanistan, and added that nobody knows how many "Afghans" there are: "Some speak of several hundreds, others of thousands."

Iraq

INA transmitted the text of a speech to war veterans by Saddam Husayn, who said that nobody in the country is hungry, thanks to the exceptionally fast reconstruction that has been conducted. Noting that commodity prices are still too high, Saddam nevertheless maintained that necessities are available at the lowest prices in the world, and that the only goods still too expensive are luxury goods. The Revolution Command Council appointed "Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan as adviser" to Saddam, INA reported, adding that the RCC stipulated that Husayn Kamil has ministerial entitlements and can keep his military rank. Speaking in Geneva, the delegate to the UN's Human Rights Commission meeting said that Vice President Quayle's remarks there were "laughable," the agency added. BABIL published a two-part interview with the finance minister, who discussed tax policy, foreign debts, inflation, and counterfeiting.

Israel

The three Israeli Arabs arrested in Egypt on espionage charges were being run by a Libyan intelligence officer posing as a Mosad representative, according to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, which did not disclose its source. Officials in Jerusalem are "pleased" with a statement by the Egyptian foreign minister after his meeting on the issue with the Israeli ambassador to Cairo, HADASHOT reported.

Egypt

"Frank and brotherly" talks were held with the Sudanese deputy prime minister, the information minister told Cairo radio, noting that the countries wish to end "incitement" aimed at harming bilateral ties. The Sudanese official told MENA that a U.S. diplomat had visited the Foreign Ministry to ask about terrorism and had left "reassured." Asked if leaders of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front would be allowed refuge in the country, Major General al-Zubayr Salih "said that Sudan has been open to all Arabs, who can stay there without a visa for more than a year," the agency continued.

Palestinian Affairs

Faruq Qaddumi said the Palestinians will not continue participation in the peace talks if the United States grants Israel the loan guarantees, Algiers Voice of Palestine reported. In East Jerusalem, the Palestinian People's Party leader urged a halt to participation in the talks until after the Israeli elections, Jerusalem radio disclosed; Bashir al-Barghuti's article to that effect was published in his party's journal, AL-TALI'AH.

Kuwait

The presence of foreign observers during legislative elections set for October is "out of the question," the justice minister told KUNA. An academic granted an interview to AL-QABAS in support of the proposal, the agency continued.

Saudi Arabia

The JORDAN TIMES examined recent Saudi moves against the religious police, and how such moves affect the internal balance of the Kingdom. The Egyptian foreign minister arrived, according to SPA, which also transmitted accounts of speeches made by the two countries' foreign ministers at a cooperation commission meeting.

Lebanon

The foreign minister said anti-Israeli groups will not be disarmed, "because if diplomatic efforts fail, nothing will be left but the resistance," Voice of Lebanon reported. Faris Buwayz meanwhile rejected a U.S. proposal for a partial Israeli withdrawal from the south, saying that Beirut will settle for only a total withdrawal in accordance with UN Resolution 425, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon added.

OPEC

As a price monitoring committee was set to open in Geneva, the Kuwaiti oil minister announced plans for a 200,000 bbl/day increase in his country's oil production to 800,000 barrels, KUNA reported. The Iraqi oil minister arrived for the talks, INA reported.

India

The defense minister said that if the "unpredictable" Pakistani leadership is "thinking about carrying out a nuclear threat," India would make that country suffer "for generations," Delhi radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

Quayle Remarks on Human Rights Criticized

LD1102185492 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The PLO representative in Geneva has criticized the selective logic of the United States over issues related to violations of human rights and to the persecuted peoples in the world.

In reply to the address by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, brother Nabil Ramlawi said: This selective political course in the field of human rights shows the lack of objectivity in the U.S. stances and confirms its lack of credibility in dealing with the pending issues and problems in the world.

Addressing the UN Human Rights Commission, which is currently meeting in Geneva, Mr. Quayle pointed out that the United States does not hesitate to condemn violations of human rights in the world. As he listed the places of these violations in the world, however, he excluded the violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Commenting on Quayle's address, brother Ramlawi pointed out that he talked about the heroism of the United States in the field of preserving human rights and democratic liberties, but avoided the suffering of the Palestinian people caused by the tremendous violations committed by the Israeli occupation authorities. He said: Mr. Quayle has disregarded the irrefutable facts which have been confirmed by the UN Security Council in its resolutions for 25 years, and he also disregarded what has been confirmed by this honorable commission in every one of its consecutive sessions.

Brother Ramlawi wondered: Did the United States not vote for Resolution 681 on 20 December 1990, which condemned Israel for its violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories? Did it not vote for UN Security Council Resolution 729 last month which condemned Israel for the same violations?

Brother Ramlawi said to the conferees: Has Mr. Quayle not read the annual U.S. State Department reports about Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied territories?

Qaddumi: No Talks If Loan Guarantees Granted

LD1102190892 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, said today in Kuala Lumpur, where he is paying a three-day visit, that the United States will scuttle the peace efforts if it grants Israel the loan guarantees before an agreement is reached to halt the building of settlements in the occupied territories.

In a speech he delivered at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, he said that the Palestinians will not continue their talks at the peace conference if Washington grants Israel the billions it needs to take in the Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Brother Abu-Lutf added his belief that no Arab state would continue the negotiations with Israel if the United States grants the Shamir government loan guarantees without a total suspension of the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Moreover, he pointed out, in an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR published today, that the PLO had joined the peace process because the conference was part of a comprehensive and overall political settlement of all regional issues and conflicts in the world, including the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that the problem of self-government was a transitional stage on the basis of which the Palestinian people would determine their destiny on the basis of the UN resolutions and under the patronage of international legitimacy.

PLO Discusses Possible Withdrawal From Talks

JN1202104392 *Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
12 Feb 92 p 11

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), has stressed that the Palestinian leadership is committed to the PNC and the PLO Central Council resolutions. He said all that is being said about overstepping these resolutions is mere speculation and conjecture.

In an exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR, he said that the Palestinian leadership's present demands are completely compatible with the resolutions adopted by the PNC and the PLO Central Council in their recent sessions in Algeria and Tunisia.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, had earlier accused the so-called experimental wing of the PLO of overstepping the PNC resolutions by accepting the formula for Palestinian representation in Madrid and Moscow. Hawatimah called for rectifying representation to include Palestinians from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the diaspora.

His eminence added: I believe that commitment to the resolutions is still valid and that the Palestinian leadership did not agree on confining the negotiating Palestinian delegation to Palestinians from the West Bank and the Strip. The Palestinian leadership is seeking to include in the delegation all Palestinians wherever they are. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Palestinian leadership's meetings in Tunis held to discuss settlement activity, the PNC speaker said: Ending the settlement activity will be a new gain for the

Palestinian people. Therefore, the Palestinian leadership does not want the peace talks to continue without making gains, the most important of which is putting an end to the settlement activity in the occupied territories.

He said that the Arab countries can suspend the talks if they adopt a unified cohesive stand in support of the Palestinian demands. It is regrettable, however, that disputes are rampant following the Gulf crisis.

Replying to a question on whether Palestinian officials are studying the possibility of suspending the negotiations, his eminence said: A serious discussion is taking place now. If they find that it is useless to continue the negotiations, they will opt for withdrawal.

Answering a question on the U.S. position toward loan guarantees to Israel, his eminence said that the U.S. Administration's stance is not clear. He added that this administration is talking about loans to complete the settlements currently under construction while disallowing the construction of new settlements. This, he said, conflicts with the U.S. policy on the entire issue of settlements.

Al-Sa'ih added: U.S. policy considers settlements an obstacle to peace. This means, in one way or another, that the settlements are illegal and illegitimate. So how could the United States guarantee loans to complete the existing settlements? I believe this is a trick aimed at attaining the results desired by Israel, because the U.S. Administration is fully aware of the settlement activity and its objectives as well as the daily confiscation of Arab lands.

He said: What we know is that settlements conflict with international legitimacy, whose flag is hoisted by the United States. Hence, all settlements should be removed because their existence is a blatant violation of UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

Talks Should Be Halted Until Israeli Elections

TA110218492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1705 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpts] Supporters of the territories' communist party, which has recently changed its name to the Palestinian People's Party, this afternoon openly held an unprecedented gathering in East Jerusalem. For the first time, party leader Bashir al-Barghuthi from Ramallah, who is close to Yasir 'Arafat, appeared openly. The meeting was held at the al-Hakawati Theater under the watchful eye of border policemen who checked the participants' documents but did not prohibit the meeting itself.

Bashir al-Barghuthi called on the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks to stop the talks with Israel until after the Israeli elections. He stressed that Palestinian participation in the multilateral talks is worthless as long as no

progress is made in the bilateral talks. Al-Barghuthi's remarks, which came approximately two weeks before the third round of the Washington peace talks, were received with thunderous applause. [passage omitted]

Al-Barghuthi also voiced opposition to the concept of ad hoc committees to manage Nabulus and Gaza. He said this would pave the way for the implementation of autonomy in the territories in accordance with the Israeli perception while the Palestinian delegates to the talks are trying to insist on Palestinian principles determined by the PLO leadership at the outset of negotiations.

Al-Barghuthi Article on Subject

TA0602171392 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic
6 Feb 92 p 3

[By editor-in-chief Bashir al-Barghuthi: "Let Us Have One Standard and Let Us Decisively Reject the Double Standard Policy!"]

[Excerpts] At this time it is imperative that we ask ourselves a number of questions, the first being: Is it worthwhile to continue the talks with Israel during the election campaign and with the existence of a transitional government that is intensifying its intransigence to attract the voters and is looking for opportunities to assure them that it can achieve peace with the Arabs and the Palestinians by this intransigence?

The second question is: Are we compelled to adopt the U.S. "double standard" policy and negotiate on its basis in the multilateral and bilateral tracks?

We cannot understand how some Arab countries have agreed to hold talks in the multilaterals over "a lasting and final" settlement in Arab-Israeli relations and at the same time have agreed to leave a "lasting" solution of the Palestinian problem to be negotiated five years after the beginning of interim rule. Meanwhile, it is forbidden to mention Jerusalem, withdrawal, and the right to self-determination. Even the cosponsors of the peace conference are not allowed to talk about their concept of a final solution to the Palestinian problem despite the existence of UN resolutions affirming the need for a total withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967 as well as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

In this context, we have to question with scorn the logic of some Palestinian circles in propagating the plan for setting up municipal councils in Nabulus and Gaza at this very time when our negotiating delegation is calling for a halt to settlement activity, application of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories prior to entering into negotiations over the interim phase, in which the municipalities and other issues will be discussed in detail.

Do these circles want to apply the "double standard" policy on ourselves and by our own choice, whereby we

will be negotiating in Washington over principles, and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—specifically in Nabulus and Gaza—we will be negotiating over details in contradiction to those principles? [passage omitted]

In the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, the time of negotiations over the interim period was set for one year, of which more than three months have passed. The issue of the municipalities has been pending since the Israeli authorities dissolved the municipalities 10 years ago. Why this sudden haste? Is it so that the municipalities will be the net on which the aid of the European Community and Japan would fall as provided for in the multilateral talks, whereby this would turn into a mechanism for normalizing Palestinian-Israeli relations and solving the problem of the absence of linkage between the bilateral and multilateral talks?

Such a development will place the Palestinian negotiating delegation in an unenviable situation. One can imagine its position when the Israeli negotiator tells it that you are insisting on a halt to settlement activity before discussing the interim phase while we are concluding agreements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the details of that phase. They will tell the Israeli voter and world public opinion: Don't pay attention to what the Palestinian negotiating delegation is saying in Washington. We are achieving tangible results in our plan, that is the Israeli plan, there in "Judaea and Samaria."

It is a fatal illusion to accept the viewpoint that advocates "dissolving" the occupation authority in phases and beginning by agreement on minor and simple issues and building on them toward the major issues. Such an approach will reinforce the occupation and was rejected a long time ago. It was on the basis of this rejection that our delegation went to Washington. It is inconceivable to pull the rug from under it now.

PFLP Official on Effects of Habash Affair

PM1202095292 Paris LE FIGARO in French
7 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with Fu'ad Abu Ahmad, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine political bureau, by Claude Lorieux in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] Dr. George Habash landed at Le Bourget airport a week ago in front of television cameras. Do you now know who gave the game away?

[Ahmad] No, although some French opposition parties apparently got wind of his arrival and exploited the information. But, as far as we are concerned, we did not think that the provisions for transferring Dr. Habash were confidential. For us there was no problem.

[Lorieux] You were quite confident?

[Ahmad] When he was admitted to the Ettaoufik clinic in Tunis, after a few days at the Djebel al-Oust treatment center, the doctors advised his immediate transfer to

France. Any delay could endanger his health. That was when the Palestinian Red Crescent established contact with the French Red Cross—a respectable institution. Moreover, we have thanked the French authorities.

[Lorieux] Who made the decision to send your leader to Paris?

[Ahmad] President Yasir 'Arafat was very worried. He was ready to carry out the transfer immediately. He too believed that this service was a natural part of the relations between France and the Palestinian movement.

[Lorieux] Was there consultation between the main officials and the family?

[Ahmad] We did not have time to hold a real meeting. The Palestinian leadership acted like a family.

[Lorieux] Was Ibrahim al-Sus, the Palestinian representative in Paris, consulted?

[Ahmad] I cannot confirm that.

[Lorieux] Did you apply for visas for the doctor and his entourage from the French Embassy in Tunis?

[Ahmad] It was the Red Cross which was responsible for that. It informed us that they would find visas when they arrived in France. We did not have to worry about the details.

[Lorieux] Basically, it was if Dr. Habash had already visited Paris....

[Ahmad] I can confirm to you that this was the first time he had visited France. Before, particularly since the attack he suffered in 1979-1980, he had received treatment in other countries, notably in Czechoslovakia.

[Lorieux] Why did you not send him for treatment in Prague this time too?

[Ahmad] We did not even think about it. The Tunis doctors recommended Paris. We had to move quickly. And we did not see any obstacles.

[Lorieux] Moreover, other prominent Palestinians have been treated in France....

[Ahmad] That is true. For instance Faruq Qaddumi (the PLO's "foreign minister"—LE MONDE editor's note) and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid] (PLO "interior minister" assassinated in Tunis in January 1991 with Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf]—LE MONDE editor's note).

[Lorieux] What about Khalid al-Hanan?

[Ahmad] Perhaps. At any rate, there were others.

[Lorieux] And those wounded in the intifadah?

[Ahmad] Yes, but also victims of the Israeli bombing of southern Lebanon.

[Lorieux] Where would we be now if Judge Bruguiere had not lifted the detention and if George Habash were still being detained in Paris?

[Ahmad] We would be using political, diplomatic, and legal channels. The PFLP was determined to take the necessary time to ensure that these methods succeeded. But if the detention had continued, I do not know what would have happened. Spontaneous reactions, in no way ordered by the PFLP or the PLO, would not have been impossible. This detention seemed to be an insult to the Palestinian movement.

[Lorieux] Could these spontaneous reactions have been acts of violence?

[Ahmad] I can confirm to you that we did not envision acts of violence either in the PLO or the PFLP. What happened in Paris was an attack. But this did not prevent us from taking action to safeguard the friendly relations which exist between our people and the French people.

[Lorieux] French legal authorities, however, were in possession of information according to which PFLP members planted explosives in Fontainebleau forest in 1986....

[Ahmad] Such actions would not have been in our interest. It is not so difficult to fabricate accusations. In 1986, we denied any link between the PFLP and the Paris attacks.

[Lorieux] Are you saying that you have stopped carrying out terrorist acts against the West?

[Ahmad] Yes, in the mid-seventies. But we claim the right to struggle against Israel, our enemy, in any way we can.

If fighting to liberate your occupied country is a terrorist act, then the French resistance was made up of terrorists.

[Lorieux] How is Dr. Habash?

[Ahmad] A little better. But the aggressive behavior of the French security services had a harmful effect on his health. He needs more rest.

[Lorieux] "Aggressive behavior?"

[Ahmad] Twenty-four hours after his admission to the Henri-Dunant hospital, between seven and ten armed special policemen entered his room. They searched his baggage. They tried to force a lock. Dr. Habash then asked one of his bodyguards to open a suitcase. The police confiscated the passports and documents,

including medical reports. Dr. Habash became angry. He removed the medical instruments he had on his chest. All that did him harm.

[Lorieux] What about the documents?

[Ahmad] They were returned to him when he left, after they had been photocopied.

[Lorieux] Do you think you were the victims of a plot aimed at poisoning relations between France and the Palestinian movement?

[Ahmad] All I can say is that this affair served the interests of Israel and the Zionist movement.

[Lorieux] Was Israel behind the affair?

[Ahmad] I have no information to confirm it.

OPEC Affairs

Meeting To Open; Kuwait To Raise Production

LD1102212192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1905 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Geneva, 11 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Hamud 'Abdallah al-Ruqabah arrived here today to take part in the sixth ministerial meeting of OPEC's price monitoring committee, which opens in this Swiss city tomorrow. Following his arrival, Dr. al-Ruqabah told reporters that Kuwait plans to raise its oil output from the current level of 600,000 barrels per day to 800,000 in the second quarter of the year. At tomorrow's meeting, the oil ministers of 13 OPEC members will discuss the possibility of reducing the organization's total output level for the second quarter to revive the ceiling fixed by OPEC for the price of its oil, which has been declining rapidly lately. [passage omitted]

[Riyadh SPA in English at 1949 GMT on 11 February in a report datelined Geneva notes: [Saudi] "Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir arrived here Tuesday to lead the Kingdom's delegation to the meeting of the OPEC prices monitoring committee, due to begin here tomorrow (Wednesday)."]

Iraqi Oil Minister Arrives

JN1202074792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0714 GMT
12 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Geneva, 12 Feb (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti arrived in Geneva last night to lead the Iraqi delegation to the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee meetings, as Iraq is one of OPEC's eight members. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Boudiaf Defends Decision on State of Emergency

LD1102232692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, stated to Radio al-Sharq—a local radio station transmitting from Paris—that the state of emergency was imposed on us. He pointed out that declaration of the state of emergency was in reply to the violence and use of mosques for political purposes by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Mr. Boudiaf added: This measure can never have anything but positive results, and contrary to what is said it will not have negative reflections as long as the democratic process, individual liberties, and the freedom of parties remain guaranteed.

In reply to a question about banning the activities of FIS, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf said that the measure was adopted by and is up to the administrative court. In this context he explained that the ban on the activities of FIS will remain in force. He added: The aim of the Higher State Council is currently to restore the authority of the state.

Council of Government Discusses Emergency Decree

LD1002203192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 2000 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The council of government met today, 10 February, under the chairmanship of Mr. Sid Ahmed Othmani, the prime minister. This is announced today by a communiqué from the prime minister's office. The council of government heard a statement by the minister of the interior and local communities concerning the effective implementation of all of the measures contained in presidential decree 92/44 of 9 February 1992, establishing the state of emergency, the aims of which are: the restoration of public order; the preservation of the safety of persons and property; and the efficient running of public services.

The prime minister added that the restoration of the authority of the state also requires suitable in-depth actions to restore citizens' confidence. This means, in particular, reducing the effects on the population of the general crisis that the country is experiencing, which is reflected in the problems of daily life and the dread concerning the future.

The implementation of the government program being prepared to this end requires order to be maintained and for the safety of persons and property to cease being threatened, while giving priority to the application of measures for the maintenance of public order, including coordination at all levels between the civil and military authorities concerned. The government will undertake the implementation of the program from the moment it is approved by the Higher Council of State.

Also, an interministerial working group, made up of the minister of national defense, the minister for human rights, the minister of the interior and local communities, and the minister of justice, has been entrusted with preparing the texts to regulate the application of the presidential decree.

Press Comment on Boudiaf Address to Nation

LD1102154492 Algiers APS in English 1146 GMT
11 Feb 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, 11/02/92 (APS)—The address delivered Monday to the nation by President of the Higher-State Committee Mohamed Boudiaf and the assassination of eight security agents are the main dominating themes tackled in morning dailies' commentaries.

Under the title "A Good Target", LE MATIN daily wonders if youth actually listened to Boudiaf, before noting "it is this youth that he wanted address, with a bit of moral and an accent that was stripped of any demagoguery". The same daily adds "it is to this very youth that saw in the Islamic Front of Salvation the sole alternative to 'a corrupted regime' that Boudiaf launched a hard message, almost 'Gaulian' that must have born somewhere a result no matter if it is small.

Moreover, LE MATIN stresses "there must be other proofs so Boudiaf achieve the people's confidence. Since the death of Boumedienne this very quality became a rare 'foodstuff'. LE QUOTIDIEN D'ALGERIE writes "Boudiaf, without make up nor composition would undoubtedly have grinded the teeth of the orthodoxes of el-Moutanabi language. [sentence as received] Nevertheless, he went straight to the point when addressing the Algerian, his consciousness.

In the same vein, LE QUOTIDIEN D'ALGERIE wonders "when will Boudiaf be ready to carry out radical changes Algeria wishes. Will he manage to find out the language and the means to achieve in aid of the revival of a country paralyzed by a three year crisis, a great deal of energy that yet in a colonial deposit".

Will he manage to substitute for fear strategy that of gathering patriots whatever are their tendencies? the same daily wonders.

As for EL-MOUJAHED, it tackles the assassination of security agents, noting "could this gorgeous field of the armed fight, bastion of the revolution, be transformed into an arena of organized crimes?". "What does France want? EL WATAN wonders, going again over the statement of the French minister of defense regarding the evacuation of French nationals in Algeria. "Why such an alarmist statement? the daily writes, considering that the reaction of the French minister is "beyond its vicious aspect, a reaction of vexation, EL WATAN stresses.

Latest Issue of Pro-FIS Newspaper Seized

LD1102132492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Citing an official source, the daily EL MOUD-JAHID said this morning that the latest issue of EL FORKANE, which is close to the Islamic Salvation Front, was confiscated by the National Gendarmerie yesterday on a court order because it contained statements harming state security.

According to the same sources, the daily explained that an official investigation into the matter has been started.

Algiers Police Station Reportedly Strafed

NC1102210592 Paris AFP in English 2041 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 11 (AFP)—An Algiers police station was strafed with automatic weapon fire Tuesday night by two or three men who escaped on foot, witnesses told AFP.

The heavy fire was heard by residents of surrounding neighborhoods.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

On Monday, six policemen were killed in an ambush by a group calling themselves "the Afghans," and two others were killed in a mosque 70 kilometers (40 miles) to the east.

Two Policemen Killed in Bordj-Menaïel**Police Pursue Assailants**

LD1002210392 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] A communique released by National Security authorities announced, following this crime [the killing of six policemen in Algiers], that at about 0600 [0500 GMT] today, the town of Bordj-Menaïel [some 60 miles east of Algiers] was the scene of a similar operation after the arrest of a suspect.

The accomplices of the arrested individual attacked a group of policemen with cold steel weapons. Two policemen were killed in the attack, and the assailants escaped after stealing the two policemen's weapons.

The police then gave chase to the assailants. The operation resulted in the killing of one of the assailants and the recovery of the stolen weapons.

Attackers, Security Forces Clash

LD1102194192 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] With regard to the killing of the two policemen yesterday morning in Bordj-Menaïel, national police sources at Bordj-Menaïel department have disclosed that

after receiving information that an armed attack was about to be launched from el- Mansouri Mohamed mosque at Bordj-Menaïel, the security forces went to the spot. One officer and a police constable went inside the mosque and arrested two persons. The two policemen were then attacked by another group. Officer Abd-Ali, a 40-year old father of four children, was killed. Police Constable Ait-Hamou Kamal, a 27-year old bachelor was injured, then he was dragged to the ablutions chamber where he was shot dead by his pistol.

The attackers then clashed with security forces that were surrounding the place. Seven of the aggressors fled and four others were arrested. The machineguns were recovered but not the two pistols. Following a search of the premises, cold-steel weapons, metal bars, Molotov cocktails, medicine, food, about 159 copies of EL-FORKANE [Islamic Salvation Front paper] and the Moroccan-published AL-HIDAYA were found.

Assailants Take Hostages

NC1102142292 Paris AFP in English 1407 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 11 (AFP) - Islamic fundamentalists sought by police in connection with the killing of two policemen took worshippers hostage Tuesday inside a mosque east of Algiers, residents of the town said.

Police had surrounded the mosque in Bordj-Menaïel, 70 kilometers (43 miles) east of the Algerian capital, the residents told AFP.

The two policemen were killed in the mosque's main prayer hall Monday as they tried to arrest two fundamentalists who had sought refuge in another part of the building.

One was killed by axe blows to the head and knife wounds in the stomach, while his companion was shot dead. The sources also said that the town hall, controlled by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), was shut by the authorities.

Authorities Deny Hostages Held

LD1102171692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Concerning the hostages who were supposed to have been kept by armed men in the mosque of Bordj-Menaïel, the authorities of the province have denied the report and said that calm prevails in the city.

Meanwhile, 14 people involved in the fire last Saturday which destroyed the town hall of Asfa in Tiaret and who refused to rescue people who were in danger were arrested yesterday. In Mostaganem, M. Mohamed, a former Islamic Salvation Front activist, was arrested during a routine search operation and was found in possession of drawings on how to make home-made bombs.

Members of Secret Fundamentalist Group Arrested

LD1102214192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The National Gendarmerie arrested today four members of the secret organization al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah [Repudiation and Renunciation—fundamentalist group] in the region of Attatba in the province of Tipaza. Authorized sources say this group is responsible for the two attacks on 24 December against a group of the National Gendarmerie in Ouled Mendil near Douera, and the Fouka Gendarmerie group. The search carried out by the National Gendarmerie of the group's hideouts led to the discovery of several rifles, military uniforms, identification documents, and other documents containing orders to carry out military operations and information from abroad, in addition to a plan for an attack on a barracks of the National Gendarmerie.

Authorities Arrest Group Calling for Jihad

Two Foreigners Among Detainees

LD1102142592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] It has been learned from authorized sources that National Gendarmerie units arrested a number of people this morning in the Diar el-Afia quarter, near Kouba in a suburb of the capital, for calling for a jihad at the area's mosque. Reporting on this event, the APS said that two of the arrested people were of foreign nationality.

AFP—Two Tunisians Held

NC1102154192 Paris AFP in English 1514 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 11 (AFP)—Automatic weapons fire was heard in Algiers early Tuesday as police arrested two Tunisian members of an Islamic fundamentalist group at the Diar el-Afia mosque near Kouba, residents said.

Police said the Tunisians were among a group of Muslims who went to the mosque at dawn and started shouting for a "holy war" against the authorities.

Boudiaf Chairs Higher Judicial Council Meeting

LD1102192792 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Today, Tuesday, 11 February 1992, at the Presidential Palace, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, presided over an extraordinary meeting of the Higher Judicial Council.

In his address, the chairman of the Higher State Council emphasized that the respect, reputation and independence of justice lies in the impartiality and efficiency of the judge and in strict respect for the laws of the republic.

In this context he emphasized the responsibility of the judiciary to confront any violation of the law whether the

matter concerns the security of individuals and property, preservation of public order, disputes or bribes.

Mr. Boudiaf also emphasized the importance of the duty of the Higher Judicial Council to preserve and consolidate the moral authority of the judiciary.

During discussions, Higher Judicial Council members expressed their firm intention to shoulder their duties as a contribution to the consolidation of the authority of the state of law and to making the judiciary an ideal institution.

Higher Judicial Council members also discussed the methods needed to improve the work of the judicial authority and its relation with litigants.

French Said Trying To Destabilize Algeria

LD1102210292 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] As everyone realizes, Algeria is going through a difficult phase as a result of the disturbances which were witnessed recently. No one denies that. However, between what is actually happening and what is being propagated from abroad of stances, news, rumors and premeditated intentions, particularly the French ones, makes us wonder: What does France want?

Among the media fallacies propagated by some French channels we learned today that the armed men who assassinated two policemen yesterday in the morning in the town of Bordj-Menaïel are today sitting in the mosque and holding hostages of those who were praying. This news is false. Yesterday they propagated the report about the resignation of Mr. Tedjani Haddam from his duties in the Higher State Council. This news is also false.

They intervened with all the financial quarters to stop all financial aid to Algeria so as to make it sink even more. Before that, France carried out suspicious secret contacts with one of the political parties in Algeria in anticipation of the events and in order to protect its own interests. The matter did not end there. Yesterday in the evening, French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe told Antenne-2 TV that France is ready to repatriate its citizens from Algeria.

What calls for such behavior at this particular time? The events of the past and present indicate that France is sensitive to everything that occurs in Algeria, and always tends to obstruct stability and to fan the flames in our country. The probable aim is to contain Algeria and strangle it economically by giving it an unsuitable image in the eyes of the international community.

It is not strange that the inclusion of a grave principle in the UN charter is due to France. It is the principle of the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the others on

the pretext of protecting minorities. What does France want? This is a mere question.

Veterans of Afghan War Behind 'Terrorist' Acts

*LD1102202692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 1800 GMT 11 Feb 92*

[Text] Algerians are still in shock at the past days of violence: 51 people have died since Friday. According to Mohamed Boudiaf, the latest incidents took place in the Casbah and in Bordj-Menaïel, incidents following which 10 policemen were killed, six in the Casbah. Veterans of the Afghan war are blamed for this attack against security forces. Here are some details about what is commonly described as the Afghan connection.

After the direct clashes between security forces and demonstrators in the past few days, it is terrorist acts which are now being perpetrated. The attacks against the security forces at Basse Casbah and Bordj-Menaïel illustrates the case. According to police sources, the perpetrators of these attacks are former fighters in Afghanistan, the "Afghans," a group considered to be the hardliners of the fundamentalist movement. It is difficult, however, to estimate their numbers. Some speak of several hundreds, others of thousands. One thing is certain, the group is fascinated by the extremist methods used by the mujahedin in Afghanistan. In Algiers, the headquarters of the "Afghans" was the Kabul Mosque in Belcourt where genuine indoctrination sessions were held. In the recent past the "Afghans" were also responsible for the Guemmar events. At their head is Tayeb El Afghani who is still on the run. At the various marches organized by the Islamic Salvation Front, the "Afghans" stand out from the other faithful due to their Afghan traditional costumes. They march under a black flag embossed with a skull.

More on War Veterans' Activities

*BK1102145792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT
11 Feb 92*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 11 (AFP)—Hundreds of Algerians took part in the Afghan war alongside the resistance and have since returned home to take part in clashes there with security forces, Western sources said here Tuesday.

The sources said the Algerians had joined the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) on their return and that some were involved in the recent attack on security forces which left six policemen dead according to Algerian radio.

They were also involved in a November attack at Guemmar, on the border with Tunisia, by a group calling itself the "Tayeb El Afghani."

The sources believe that after 1988 the FIS may have sent militants to Afghanistan to receive ideological and military training.

The Algerian Embassy in Islamabad apparently has some 300 Algerians registered with as living here with some

100 of them fighting alongside fundamentalist mujahedin groups in Afghanistan, according to sources. The embassy has not confirmed the figures.

Other Algerians work for Arab aid groups based in Peshawar on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Most Algerians began to arrive in the area in 1986 in response to a call by Saudi Arabia for young Arabs to take part in an "anti-communist crusade" against Kabul. At the time the former Soviet Union still had troops in Afghanistan fighting to prop up the Kabul regime. The troops withdrew in 1989.

There are also Saudi Arabians, Yemenis, Sudanese, Palestinians, Egyptians, Libyans, Iraqis, and Tunisians currently fighting alongside the mujahedin.

Seven Algerians were killed in October during a resistance offensive against Gardēyz, eastern Afghanistan, according to mujahedin sources.

Some Arab diplomats these days talk of "international (Islamic) fundamentalism," originating, among other places, from the Pakistan-Afghan border.

In September Tunisian authorities reported an Islamic plot against President Ben Ali and the discovery of an arms cache including a U.S.-made Stinger surface-to-air missile originating from the region.

Energy Minister Calls for Limiting Oil Production

*LD1002222292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Feb 92*

[Text] Algeria has expressed its hope that OPEC will decide to reduce its oil production immediately and to set the organization's overall production ceiling at 22.5 million barrels per day.

That was stated by Minister of Energy Nordine Ait Laoussine, who—in a statement to APS on the eve of the meeting of the OPEC ministerial committee—stressed that the organization's production ceiling must not exceed 22.5 million barrels per day, and that that must be attained before next June in order to check a price collapse and to raise the price of a barrel to the level of OPEC's benchmark price of \$21.

Egypt

Third Spying Suspect Arrested on Libyan Border

*NC1102140092 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT
11 Feb 92*

[Text] Cairo, Feb 11 (AFP) - An Israeli citizen, whose father and sister have been detained here on suspicion of spying, was arrested Monday at the Egyptian-Libyan border and has admitted he worked for the Israeli secret service, court sources said Tuesday.

Magued Misrati entered Egypt with a fake passport at the Solloum border post, the sources reported. He admitted on his arrest that he had been working with his father "for Mosad," the Israeli secret service, they said, adding that the young Misrati was carrying "information on military and strategic sites" in Egypt.

An investigation also revealed that Magued, his 17-year-old sister Faiyiah and their 41-year-old father Faris, all had "fake identity cards" and had planned actions in Egypt "hostile to Egyptian interests."

Faris and Faiyiah Misrati have confessed to seeking information on Egyptian military positions and prominent figures for Mosad, Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said Sunday. He also disclosed that the MisratIs were Jews of Libyan origin who now held Israeli citizenship.

But a cousin in Jerusalem, 'Azmi Mousarti, told AFP that Faris Misrati was an Arab Muslim and not a Jew and denied that his relative was a spy. The family, which is of Libyan origin, arrived in Palestine 70 years ago, he added.

Misrati and his daughter, a language student in Cairo, were detained a week ago in the first incident of its kind since Egypt and Israel signed a peace agreement in 1979.

Musa Reportedly Denies Linking Israelis to Mosad
TA1102185992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1800 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpt] Egyptian Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa today met Israeli Ambassador Efrayim Doweik and denied the media reports that he, Musa, had said that the Israeli Faris Misrati and his daughter Fa'iqah had admitted spying for the Israeli intelligence agency, the Mosad. Musa said he had been misunderstood.

Doweik asked when the Israeli consul would be able to meet the two prisoners, and Musa replied that this would be possible as soon as the investigation had been completed. In other words, the investigation was not yet over. The meeting between 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and Efrayim Doweik was held at the ambassador's request. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi Departs Following 'Fruitful' Talks
NC1102150292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1317 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—The prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, has expressed satisfaction over the good and fruitful results achieved in all fields during the visit to Cairo by the Syrian prime minister and his delegation. Dr. Sidqi said that Egyptian and Syrian officials exchanged views on political matters, particularly the next phase of the peace process.

In a statement today following the departure of Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Dr. Sidqi said that Egyptian-Syrian cooperation taking place in the framework of the Higher Egyptian-Syrian Joint Committee will advance Arab goals.

Dr. Sidqi said that the scope for Arab cooperation is unlimited and that Arab countries can form one international block, thanks to the bonds of language and blood linking them together.

The Egyptian prime minister disclosed that during the higher committee meetings, both sides agreed to remove the obstacles to cooperation in economics, trade, agriculture, and industry.

Sudan's Salih Concludes Cairo Visit 11 Feb

Discusses Cooperation With Al-Sharif

NC1102150892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif met at noon today with Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, to discuss information ties between the two countries.

The information minister said the discussions were frank and brotherly, with both sides eager to secure contacts in line with the relations between the two peoples. They were confident that both countries' information officials and spokesmen support the building of bridges to learn the facts and uncover any attempts to create an unnatural situation between them, and that they wish to end incitement which aims to damage their firm fraternal ties.

They discussed cooperating on information media, to consolidate the agreement reached during the Sudanese information minister's recent visit.

Al-Sharif received Maj. Gen. Salih last night when Salih and his delegation visited the Radio and Television Building, touring the international news, Egyptian Space Channel, and teletext centers. The delegation also visited the drama studios and attended a dinner hosted by the information minister in the Radio and Television Building.

On Ties With Egypt, Algeria

NC1202085992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council [RCC], said he was satisfied with his meeting with President Husni Mubarak and his talks with Egyptian officials. He noted that President Mubarak has been invited to visit Sudan.

The Sudanese official said he is optimistic about the future of bilateral relations, which had entered a new,

critical stage based on a solid foundation which will prevent tension and instability from recurring.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Wednesday, al-Zubayr said that the coming stage will witness several meetings, visits, and activity which will culminate in a summit meeting soon between President Mubarak and RCC Chairman 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen Salih reiterated Sudan's wish to maintain good relations with Egypt, saying that Sudan will never be a thorn in Egypt's side and that Egypt will always be a shield protecting it.

He underlined that relations between Sudan and any other state can never be established against or at the expense of any Arab or foreign state, adding that relations had been established with Iran, the Arab nation's Muslim neighbor.

The Sudanese official denied that Sudan has turned into a den of terrorism, maintaining that any such reports are untrue and targeted at shaking stability. He pointed out that the United States had not delivered any ultimatum to his government, explaining that a U.S. official only visited the Sudanese Foreign Ministry to determine the truth about reports and left reassured.

On the domestic situation in Sudan, the RCC deputy chairman, who is also the interior minister, said there are no political prisoners in Sudanese jails. He added that the number of prisoners throughout Sudan does not exceed 14,000, indicted on criminal charges, and that the figure is low in a population of 24 million.

He said his talks in Egypt touched on rumors about extremism in Sudan and on Sudanese opposition activity in Egypt. He said the two sides agreed that Sudan should respect Egypt's principled stand on hosting everyone because Egypt is home to all Arabs. He said that Egypt is committed to suspending any hostile Sudanese opposition activity against Sudan.

Al-Zubayr went on to say that anyone who wants to exercise such opposition should go back to his home in Sudan and engage in political activity there. We in Sudan do not restrict opposition, he said, recalling that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi lives in Sudan where he voices his opposition.

Maj. Gen. Salih pointed out that the National Council, which will open its meetings on 24 February, includes members with different views. He stressed that Sudan is open to all. He noted contacts with people like Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the previous Supreme State Council, who will return to Sudan.

He asserted that Sudan is stable, evidenced by his own and the head of public security's presence in Egypt. We would not have left if we did not feel secure, he said.

Asked to comment on reports that the leaders of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front have taken or will take

refuge in Sudan, Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Salih said that Sudan has been open to all Arabs, who can stay there without a visa for more than a year. He remarked that no illegal or anti-state activity will be tolerated.

Maj. Gen Salih said that events in Algeria concern Sudan, which hopes the Algerian people will surmount their ordeal and get their society back to normal.

Comments on Visit, Departs

NC1102174092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1518 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council and interior minister, left Cairo this afternoon after a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he met President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

In a predeparture statement, al-Zubayr described his meeting with Mubarak as "fruitful and positive."

He added that agreement was reached on certain issues and explained that "everything will be put on the right track" through basic agencies and channels in both countries.

He pointed out that there are absolutely no differences between Egypt and Sudan, but that there had been some suspicions in the past. He said that the state and popular channels and agencies will dispel the doubts and clouds that marred relations recently, so that [word indistinct] again in favor of the Sudanese and Egyptian peoples.

Commenting on the problem in southern Sudan, he said that the Sudanese revolution is seeking a peaceful solution to the problem and pursuing political and social negotiations with all Sudanese figures. He affirmed that when officials of the rebel movement in southern Sudan are serious, a meeting will be held among all parties to solve the problem.

Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, who saw off the Sudanese official at the airport, praised ties between the two countries. He said these ties were never lukewarm and asserted that cooperation is continuing in various fields. In agriculture, Dr. Wali said that Egypt provided Sudan with about 1,400 tonnes of corn seed last year to plant 1 million feddans of corn.

Musa Summarizes Trip, Criticizes Shamir Remarks

NC0802204492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT
8 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening from Ankara after a five-day tour of Cyprus, Germany, Switzerland, and Turkey.

In a statement upon his return, Musa expressed satisfaction with the results of this tour. He said Egypt stated its

desire to be present at the heart of the Nonaligned Movement meeting in Cyprus, during which discussion centered on basic issues of interest to the Movement.

The foreign minister said that during his visit to Germany, discussions focused on Egyptian-German relations and the situation in the Middle East, Europe, and the Mediterranean.

In the statement he made upon his return, Musa said that he then participated in the meetings of the Group of 15 held in Geneva. He then concluded his tour with a visit to Turkey, during which he held talks with Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

During the talks, the two sides affirmed the importance of the reality on the ground in Egyptian-Turkish relations. They also recognized that relations between the two countries need to be bolstered and developed in all fields. He pointed out that they achieved satisfactory results in these talks.

Regarding Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's recent statements that he is not committed to the articles of the Camp David agreement regarding Palestinian autonomy, Musa said these statements are part of his election campaign.

He added that what the Israeli prime minister said is in no one's interest, because when he talks of disregarding agreements to which his country is committed, many world circles will be disturbed.

Musa expressed his belief that it is better for Israeli officials to avoid this topic. He said: I call on them to avoid repeating such statements.

Interviewed on Peace Process

NC0702143392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1209 GMT
7 Feb 92

[Text] Beirut, 7 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that the multilateral talks in Moscow were useful and that we gained a lot from them. He pointed out that the gains include the addition of a committee for Palestinian refugee affairs and a new formula for Palestinian participation, including Palestinians abroad.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR published today, the foreign minister said that in Moscow, Egypt supported the Syrian stand of nonparticipation in multilateral negotiations. Syria's absence was due to the Israeli stands on the occupied territories and during the bilateral talks.

'Amr Musa said Egypt's participation in the multilateral talks arose from the fact that these talks are part of the peace process and are based on the principle of land for peace. The multilateral talks, the foreign minister added,

are not considered objective negotiations on water or other issues, but were held to arrange and organize such issues.

The foreign minister stressed the need to establish peace based on the principle of land for peace, and to realize the rights of the Palestinian people. Musa noted that the time is ripe for telling the Arabs: Sit down, negotiate, and use the international situation to advance your interests.

'Amr Musa said the ball is now in the Israeli court and Israel must prove its good intentions and deal with the issue according to the principle of land for peace.

As for the Golan Heights, the foreign minister said the issue must involve all the land there. As for Lebanon, its borders are known, and Israel has no right to one grain of sand there.

'Amr Musa said there are two parts to the Palestinian issue: The first concerns the transition phase, involving self-administration, on which negotiations are currently taking place. The second phase begins after five years, and Israel must withdraw because the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is Palestinian land.

'Amr Musa described the course of the peace process as positive, noting the huge gains made by the Palestinian delegation. He said the Arabs went to the talks and proved they all want peace, contrary to some propaganda.

Al-Baz on Peace Process, Libya, Nuclear Experts

PM1202103592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 8 Feb 92 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs, by Suzi al-Junaydi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Junaydi] Do you expect bilateral or multilateral negotiations to achieve any progress during the five-month wait for the results of the Israeli elections? And what are the results of Egyptian-Syrian coordination in this respect, especially after Syria's refusal to attend the multilateral talks in Moscow last month?

[Al-Baz] There is continuing coordination with Syria over all stances, and Egypt understands and agrees with the Syrian stance that, in order for progress to be made in the multilateral talks, there should be clear progress in the bilateral negotiations. This is because cooperation over regional issues is inconceivable in the absence of a breakthrough on the bilateral issues, especially Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, as well as a solution of the Palestinian issue. Here we come to the settlement issue: All settlement activities in the occupied territories must be halted. This question is the first priority, and it is unreasonable for any negotiations to continue while Israel is turning Arab territories into Israeli settlements. Then come the Israeli elections, which will be held on 23

June. This is a clear indication that we cannot actually expect a significant Israeli move in the peace process during the next few months. There is Israeli participation, but Israel is continuing to take part in the negotiation process only in a formal way; as for the substance, Israel is not expected to make a significant move in any negotiations, bilateral or multilateral. Israeli moves will remain suspended during the next five months.

[Al-Junaydi] So why the eagerness to continue the negotiations during this period, when it is known that they will not lead to a significant outcome as a result of the frequent Israeli evasions?

[Al-Baz] The Israeli elections should not cause us to stop the negotiations. We must ensure that Israel remains committed by responding to peace efforts and defining its positions clearly. Besides, the course of the negotiations and the Arab parties' position can affect the results of the Israeli elections.

[Al-Junaydi] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi recently praised U.S. and Egyptian efforts to realize the peace plan in the Middle East, but he regarded U.S. means as insufficient. And these statements point to the Libyan leader's backtracking on his previous position of attacking the peace process as a whole. Will that ease the present Western pressure on Libya with regard to the Lockerbie question?

[Al-Baz] It is clear that Libya is currently adopting a positive, moderate position on the peace process, and I do not believe that this has anything to do with the Libyan-Western crisis and the accusations that Libya blew up the U.S. and French planes. [passage omitted]

[Al-Junaydi] Some press reports indicated recently that Libya has actually hired some Soviet nuclear scientists. What is Egypt's position on this, especially as it poses a major, direct threat to the region?

[Al-Baz] Obviously it is a serious thing for any state to be dragged into recruiting and employing Soviet nuclear scientists. It is an action surrounded by dangers, because there is currently international alarm that this might lead to an increase in nuclear activities in dangerous and sensitive regions like the Middle East. There is international monitoring of this question conducted by UN organs and organs in the major states. This is because the transfer of any nuclear scientists, military industries, or weapons of mass destruction would be counter to the aim which the international community is currently seeking to realize; namely, to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and ensure that all world states, especially Third World states, join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. As for Israel, my expectations are that it will be exposed to strong international pressure to join that treaty and subject its nuclear installations to inspection. Of course, allowing Israel to recruit Soviet nuclear scientists would cause other states in the region to think about acquiring and importing nuclear weapons so that they would not be exposed to an Israeli nuclear threat, thus propelling the region into the vicious circle of an

arms race. To break that vicious circle, Israel must first join the other states of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and allow international organizations to inspect its nuclear reactor to ascertain that all Israeli nuclear capabilities are for peaceful purposes only. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Repercussions of U.S. Loans to Israel

NC0702075892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has said that the U.S. Administration is currently facing a decisive test of credibility concerning Israel's demand for \$10 billion in loans, a request the United States is considering.

In its 7 February issue, the paper notes comments U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made during discussions of the loan guarantees. Baker said that the U.S. Administration is considering the request and its possible effects on U.S. Middle East policy.

The paper said that everyone knows Israel wants these huge loans to continue committing an international and humanitarian crime it began a few years ago; that is, the establishment of hundreds of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, primarily in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The paper notes that the U.S. Government has always maintained under international law these territories were occupied by force during the June 1967 war; therefore, their final status can be established only through negotiations with the rightful owners.

The paper adds that despite the special relationship Israel enjoys with the United States—a relationship manifested by the outpouring of aid it gives Israel—no government in Washington has ever tried to change its basic policy of land for peace.

The paper concludes by saying that if any U.S. funds given to Tel Aviv are used to entrench the occupation or to help Israel devour more of the occupied territories, U.S. credibility in the region will be destroyed. The entire international community will accuse the United States of participating in flagrant violations of all international laws and charters banning the occupation of territory by force.

Editorial Cited on 'Crossroads' in Negotiations

NC0902084392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 9 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Crossroads," AL-AHRAM notes that bilateral negotiations in Washington have been delayed for 2 weeks to give the parties a chance to hold further consultations and explore positions before discussion of the main issues begins. The

delay will also enable U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to be present, maintaining Washington's policy of close involvement in the talks.

The paper adds that the negotiations have reached a crossroads: Either they will get down to the basic issues, or give the impression that they are no more than a veneer or a cover for Israel to complete its policy of domination by continuing to build settlements on all of the occupied Arab territories.

The paper notes that it has been said that bargaining away from the negotiating table could be more important than the current round of negotiations, and that Israel is ready to accept an interim [marhali] freeze on settlement building in return for obtaining U.S. loan guarantees and in exchange for an Arab arms reduction.

Editorial Cited on Palestinian 'Humiliations'

NC1002090792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 10 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM's discusses the humanitarian aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict, saying: Shamir is still rejecting what he sees as pressure on Israel to follow a certain policy. This is Shamir's reaction to the international demand that Israel stop building settlements. The United States has turned that demand into a condition for granting the \$10 billion loan guarantee Israel is seeking. Israel intends to use at least some of these funds to further its settlement activities.

What would happen if we apply Shamir's logic to the Palestinian case? The PLO could, for example, ask for assistance and loans to tackle the dire consequences of the brutal and arbitrary treatment of Palestinians living in the occupied territories. Politics aside, such a request would be fully justified in humanitarian terms.

AL-AHRAM says that Shamir wants his government to have supreme rights [huquq samiyah] over the occupied land and its inhabitants. Emboldened by the de facto occupation, Shamir is citing humanitarian reasons to serve the interests of his own people. What about the humanitarian needs of the Palestinians, who are being brutalized in their own homeland?

AL-AHRAM calls on the Arabs to do more than denounce the settlement policy in political terms. The Arabs, the paper argues, should respond to the same issues raised by Shamir by keeping the world informed of the daily humiliations that the Palestinians are forced to endure in their own land. The human ordeal of the Palestinians is disproportionate to that of the Jewish immigrants. The influx of immigrants will clearly displace the Palestinians already living under occupation.

Editorial Assails Shamir on 'Humanitarianism'

NC1202071392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says in its editorial today: The most astounding and ridiculous argument used by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to pressure the U.S. Administration into granting Israel huge loans for building new settlements is probably his claim that settlement building should not be linked with the current Middle East peace talks, because they are political, while seizing Arab territories for Jewish emigrants who chose to leave their own countries is a humanitarian issue.

The paper asks: Has the world ever heard such nonsense and drivel as that uttered by Shamir, who believes that the international community will be deceived by his weird arguments, used to justify his attempts to steal others' territories under the banner of humanitarian principles?

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say: This argument, which Shamir believes will convince the U.S. public to back the loans, means that he is either mentally retarded or accusing the world, including the Americans, of being naive and stupid enough to believe his claims and strange allegations, with which he seeks to distort obvious facts.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: Although we are accustomed to hearing Shamir's strange views and claims, we have never heard humanitarianism being interpreted as Shamir is doing, from the perspective of his own criteria.

Commentator Predicts Shamir Election Victory

NC1002113892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Will Shamir Win the Next Elections?"]

[Text] It is our fate to pay close attention to what is happening in Israel, even if events there fall within the context of its internal policy, because Israel's policies have either a positive or a negative effect on the region we live in.

Thus, the legislative elections due to be held in Israel in June cannot under any circumstances be a purely Israeli affair, because their outcome will spell out for the Arab countries the identity of the those who will govern Israel in the coming years.

The struggle in these elections is basically between the two major parties: Likud and Labor. There are also a number of leftist, right-wing, and religious parties that will contest the elections. The number of votes these small parties will win will deny an absolute majority for either the Likud or Labor.

If we assess the possible outcome of these elections, we can see that the Likud under Shamir will get enough seats to enable it to form the new government with the help of some right-wing or religious parties. Before going into the reasons for the Likud victory in the elections, which will keep the Labor Party on the opposition benches, we should note that Yitzhaq Shamir will gain the confidence of the Likud members, and will remain leader of the Herut Party and of the Likud bloc, overcoming the challenge of his rivals, Foreign Minister David Levi and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon. The reasons for Shamir's expected win of the Likud leadership over Levi and Sharon are the same reasons that the Likud will win the Knesset elections. We can sum up the reasons and conditions that tip the balance in favor of the Likud as follows:

1. The success of Shamir's plans to open the door for the emigration of very large numbers of Soviet Jews to Israel. These emigrants include a large percentage of educated people. This has defused, albeit temporarily, the Arab population bomb and brought Israel additional high-tech and scientific expertise that it can add to its human resources without spending any money or effort on preparing these cadres arriving from the former Soviet Union.
2. Shamir's success in exercising a high level of self-restraint during the Gulf crisis, especially after Israel came under attack by Iraqi Scuds. This enabled Shamir to get a very technologically advanced U.S. missile defense system in return. At the same time, he gained international appreciation for his calm stand, which enabled the coalition to move along with its plans to deal with Saddam Husayn.
3. Shamir's firm stand in his dealings with the U.S. Administration on the issue of loan guarantees to settle emigrants and build settlements. Shamir's stand enjoys the support of the Israeli public, which has been molded to respect a challenge, regardless of its intensity or the direction in which it leads.
4. The Shamir government's insistence on its policy of rejecting the PLO and a Palestinian state, refusing to recognize Palestinian rights, and refusing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in return for peace. Shamir travelled in person to Madrid to head his country's delegation to the peace negotiations. It was a tactical move that brought him a certain level of popularity, particularly as he did not bargain over his rejectionist stand, even though the entire world is moving toward resolving problems through positive dialogue.
5. The Israeli citizen is well aware that the main political lines of the Likud and the Labor Parties are one and the same and that the only difference between the two is the Labor Party's ability to maneuver while the Likud moves in a straight line toward its goal without covering up its deficiencies at all.

At the same time, large sectors of the Israeli public believe that the Likud is now better qualified to lead the

peace battle and get the maximum possible gains at the negotiation table, contrary to the Labor Party, which could hand over its winning cards to the United States and be merely content with Washington's approval. Still more important than this is the fact that the Israeli public realizes that if Shamir does not win the elections and moves to the opposition benches, then the Labor leadership cannot take a single step toward peace, which the United States wants, and that tension will regrettably increase in the region. Therefore, Shamir will win the coming elections.

Sudan

First Visa to Kuwait Since Gulf War Granted

EA1102184592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Feb (SUNA)—The Kuwait Embassy at Khartoum gave a Sudanese citizen married to a Kuwaiti lady an entry visa to Kuwait to go to his wife in Kuwait in a first initiative of its kind since the Gulf War, said the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires at Khartoum.

Opposition Parties Conclude London Conference

PM1102151392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 4

[Uthman Mirghani report: "Sudanese Opposition Espouses Dissolution of Islamic Front and Trial of Its Symbols"]

[Excerpts] London—Leaders of the Sudanese political parties belonging to the "Democratic National Grouping" [DNG] have unanimously announced the success of their conference held in London over seven days which endorsed the working and government program and the constitution for the transitional period to be implemented "after the downfall" of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's regime. DNG leaders described their conference as "historic and a notable turning point in the resistance to the regime." They pointed out that they had endorsed a working program to step up "popular resistance and armed struggle," on the grounds that they are legitimate methods "to topple the regime of the military Islamic Front and restore democracy."

Leaders of the opposition parties told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that they have decided to ban the Islamic Front from operating under the new democracy, and that they will bring to trial "anyone who planned, instigated, or helped in the execution of the 30 June 1989 coup, and anyone who took part in supporting, running, or prolonging the term of the illegitimate regime."

In that context after the conclusion of its conference yesterday the opposition DNP demanded that the Sudanese Revolution Council "dissolve itself and hand

over power in order to spare bloodshed and to realize the necessity for change and the sovereignty of the people's decision."

The meeting, which was held in London over a week and was concluded yesterday, adopted a unified formula for the DNG's charter after introducing some amendments to it and accommodating the proposals submitted by the Garang movement, which joined the DNG in March 1990. [passage omitted]

DNG leaders criticized the foreign policy of Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's government, saying that "it has ruined Sudan's relations and reputation and harmed its interests" and "turned Sudan—for the first time in history—into a hotbed for the export of terrorism and trouble." They said that the London conference's biggest success is the DNG parties' agreement on common denominators, unification, and drawing up detailed working programs and the constitution.

They pointed to the achievement of progress in several important aspects, including unanimity over a democratic, multiparty state "reflecting the religious, cultural, and ethnic plurality of the Sudanese people," in addition to unanimity on the role of religion in guiding society and expressing its values, and the inclusion of that in the constitution.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party demanded the adoption of the Islamic Shari'a as one of the principal sources of legislation. But following long discussions it was agreed to refer the issue to the constitutional conference to be held within six months of the beginning of the transitional period, which will end its proceedings within another six months.

The DNG ruled out any talk about a separation formula and agreed on Sudan's unity and decentralized rule. [passage omitted]

'Positive, Important Results' Hailed

PM1102154192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad report: "Sudanese Unionist Party's Representative in Grouping Says: London Conference Made Important Achievements and Left No Room To Talk About Disagreements"]

[Excerpts] London—Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abdallah Yasin—former State Council member, leader of the Sudanese Democratic National Grouping in Cairo, and the Unionists' representative to the London conference held by the opposition grouping—has emphasized that the conference achieved everything expected of it and reached positive and important results with regard to all that was raised at the talks. Muhammad said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that from the outset we adopted the principle that any dispute should be referred to the constitutional conference which is to be held once the regime is toppled and the transitional government is formed within a period not exceeding six months. And the constitution which we have completed consists of 260 articles, all of which, aside from articles 8 and 9, have been approved. These two articles talk about the sources of legislation. We did not dwell too long on this question, because from the beginning we had agreed to refer any matter that is subject to a difference of opinion to the constitutional conference—such as identity, the relationship between state and religion, and so on. He went on to say: "Thus it is clear that the conference has achieved all its aims with total success, and there is no room to talk about disagreements, let alone differences of opinion. We have achieved everything concerning power, state, the charter, and phased programs; we have issued all the documents and announced this at a news conference. So after all this is it reasonable to raise any questions about alleged disagreements?" [passage omitted]

On disagreements and divisions among the Unionists he said: "This question too is exaggerated. There is a position adopted by brother al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Landi and his brother supporters. And we Unionists unite at gatherings, and this matter will be settled within the next few days through continuing efforts by me personally." [passage omitted]

Kuwait**Observer Team at Elections 'Out of the Question'***LD1102115392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT
11 Feb 92*

[Text] Kuwait City, 11 Feb (KUNA)—Ghari 'Ubayd Al-Sammar, Kuwaiti justice and legal affairs minister, has emphasized that the enlistment of help from foreign observers in monitoring the National Assembly elections due to be held in Kuwait in October 1992 is out of the question.

Answering a question from KUNA concerning reports that there is a move toward enlisting foreign observers to monitor the conduct of the elections, he said that running the operation in each electoral district is the responsibility of one or more committees. He added that these committees are set up under the chairmanship of a judge or public prosecutor in accordance with the stipulations of Article 27 of Law 35 of 1962 on the election of National Assembly members.

There are 25 electoral districts in Kuwait. Any resident in those districts is eligible to run if he fulfills the requirements of being Kuwaiti by birth, over 18, civilian, and of good conduct.

Two candidates are nominated for each district and the Kuwaiti Government appoints 10 deputies, making a total of 60 National Assembly members.

The Kuwaiti minister stressed the purely internal nature of this issue and expressed his confidence that the honorable citizens are fully aware of the fairness of the judicial system, which enjoys the trust, respect, and pride of all due to its independence and neutrality.

A suggestion put forward by a Kuwaiti academician at the University of Kuwait—namely, the idea of inviting an international team to monitor the coming parliamentary elections in the country—has aroused different reactions and views. Dr. Ahmad Bisharah, a member of the Kuwaiti Graduates Association, has defended his idea of inviting an international team to monitor the elections in Kuwait. Responding to the campaign against this idea, he made it clear that the team would be witness to the proper conduct of the elections and their impartiality without having the right to supervise the electoral process. In an interview published today in "AL-QABAS," he said the role of an observer team is different from that of the media, which some people consider adequate in following up the elections, because there is a credibility in the team's statements which is different from news and information reports. He added that the Copenhagen Convention of the CSCE, which is signed by 30 countries, stipulates that all countries that signed the Convention have to accept the principle of international observers in their elections.

Patriot Missile Purchase Under Discussion*LD1002105892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0754 GMT
10 Feb 92*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Feb (KUNA)—Flight Brigadier General Daoud Al-Ghanim, commander of the Kuwaiti Air Force, has affirmed that the committee charged with studying the possibility of buying the American "Patriot" antimissile system has acknowledged the importance of the purchase.

In a statement to Kuwait's AL-ANBA' newspaper, published today in its issue here, Brigadier General Al-Ghanim said the committee had discussed this study from different technical and administrative angles.

He added that the committee has recognized the necessity of buying the "Patriot," but the final decision rests with the political leadership, which received the report a few days ago. He pointed out that the Iraqi regime still has Scud missiles and that there is still a danger from the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Al-Ghanim stressed in his statement that Kuwait asked the Iraqi regime to return the "Hawk" missiles it seized when burglarizing Kuwait, pointing out that a recorded number had been delivered to the official quarters suing Iraq [sentence as received]

The military official emphasized at the end of his statement that Kuwait plans to sell "Sky Hawk" aircraft next October to its main company [not further identified] after replacing them with F-18's, the second shipment of which will arrive today.

Saddam Remains 'Threat' While in Power*NC0802074592 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 7 Feb 92*

[Text] Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan has stated that if the head of the Baghdad regime stays in power, he will remain a threat to neighboring countries, who have the right to use all means to protect their independence.

In a statement published in the newspaper AL-'ALAM today, he stressed that Kuwait is entitled to use all means to defend itself and secure its border.

Investment Agreement To Be Signed With CIS*LD1102140892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1150 GMT
11 Feb 92*

[Text] Kuwait, 11 February—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan has stated that he expects to sign an agreement for the guaranteeing of investment between Kuwait and the Russian Federation during his tour of 14 Soviet [as received] republics and the PRC and Albania.

In a press statement last night, al-Ridan said that the preparations for the investment guarantee agreement

between Kuwait and the Russian Federation have gone a long way and have reached the final stages. He pointed out that it might be appropriate to sign the agreement during his visit to the Russian Federation which will begin tomorrow.

The minister will be accompanied by a large delegation consisting of representatives from several Kuwaiti government ministries and organizations representing the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Public Works, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Kuwait Petroleum Establishment, the General Board of Investment, the Kuwaiti Fund, the Kuwaiti Scientific Research Institute, and the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Al-Ridan said that his tour stems from the recent visits which the Amir of Kuwait paid to the PRC and the former USSR.

Al-Ridan said that he and the accompanying delegation will discuss with the officials in the countries to be visited ways for bolstering cooperation between them and Kuwait and will explore the investment opportunities that exist there in economic, scientific, and other fields.

Defense Minister on UK Accord, Iraqi Arms Sale

PM0702164692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 6 Feb 92 pp 1, 6

[Fayhan al-'Utaybi and 'Abdallah al-Batil report: "Kuwaiti Defense Minister Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT: We Are Considering Reducing Military Conscription"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—Kuwait and Britain will sign a defense and cooperation agreement next Tuesday. It will be signed for Kuwait by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah al-Salim. This was revealed in an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT in which the minister said that he will pay an official visit to Britain next Monday at the invitation of British Defense Secretary Tom King. The defense minister added that the agreement has a duration of 10 years and is renewable and that it is similar to the agreement signed with the United States in October last year.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said that the Kuwaiti-British agreement will be referred to a special session of the National Council next Saturday.

The defense minister added that the agreement includes the provisions for joint exercises and maneuvers between Kuwaiti and British forces and the exchange of military missions. With regard to the sale of the Iraqi weapons seized by the Kuwaiti Army, which are worth over \$2 billion, he said that they are being offered for sale, provided that they do not end up in the Iraqi forces' hands.

The defense minister denied that Kuwait could have proposed a British presence on its territory, or a base in Kuwait for the British forces.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah has said that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces consider purchasing various aircraft such as the F-15 and Tornado from other states. He added that they always seek the best and for what would develop the performance of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, which should have the capability to protect the homeland's borders.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT the defense minister said that the ministry has so far received three F-18's of the total of 40 aircraft ordered. He added that the other aircraft will arrive soon.

With regard to which kinds of weapons the Defense Ministry has purchased, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah said that the ministry has purchased several advanced weapons which the Kuwaiti Armed Forces need to equip all the Defense Ministry's sectors destroyed by the Iraqi invasion forces. In this context he pointed to the Ministry's desire to equip the military bases in order to restore them to their previous status as soon as possible.

Asked about military conscription in Kuwait and the possibility of reducing its duration, Minister al-Sabah said that the ministry was conducting a comprehensive study in coordination and cooperation with the Army's General Staff in order to look into the possibility of reducing the period of military conscription. [passage omitted]

Legislature Endorses UK Pact

NC0902073592 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The National Council held a session chaired by Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id at 0915 today. His highness the heir apparent and prime minister, ministers, and council members attended the sessions.

The council discussed topics on its agenda and endorsed a number of reports submitted by the council committees. A secret session was held afterward at the government's request to look into matters relating to Kuwait's security. The session was declared public at 1325.

The speaker praised the following statement issued by the council: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted containing Koranic verses]

The National Council held an ordinary session on 8 February 1992, in continuation of the session held on 4 February 1992, chaired by National Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id. The council discussed topics on its agenda and the session was declared secret at the government's request. The session listened to

statements by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, who reviewed the main features of the draft memorandum of understanding between the Governments of Kuwait and the United Kingdom concerning defense cooperation and promoting friendly ties and bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

The National Council blesses and supports the government's intention to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Government of the United Kingdom. The council asserts its support for any future measure by the government to strengthen Kuwait's security and stability, based on the following principles:

1. Kuwait's independence, freedom, and sovereignty over all its territories must be fully preserved;
2. Kuwait is an inseparable part of the Arab nation and has not and never will disavow or abandon its role within the Arab family; and
3. Kuwait will always remain faithful to the brothers and friends who stood by our side and demonstrated their support during the war to liberate Kuwait.

We implore God to [word indistinct] our pious martyrs, grant them the abode of his paradise, free our prisoners and detainees, protect Kuwait and its people from any harm, and maintain for Kuwait the grace of security and stability under the leadership of his highness the amir and the heir apparent and prime ministers, may God keep them. He is the all-hearing, the provider, and the granter of success.

Defense Minister Leaves for UK

LD0802130592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT
8 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Feb—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah left at noon today for London on an official visit lasting four days.

Before leaving, Shaykh 'Ali said that the main purpose of his visit was to sign the Anglo-Kuwaiti Memorandum on Security Understanding, in addition to having talks with his British counterpart, Tom King.

In a statement to KUNA, he said that he will discuss with his British counterpart matters of common interest and will acquaint himself with some of the joint projects between the two countries in the field of armament and the reorganization of the Kuwaiti army.

Asked if there were any secret clauses in the Memorandum of Understanding or the Anglo-Kuwaiti Security Agreement to be signed in London, the Kuwaiti defense minister reiterated his denial of the existence of any such clauses in the memorandum.

He added that he had previously denied all that was reported about the existence of secret clauses in the Security Agreement which Kuwait signed with the

United States, pointing out that the same applied to the agreement to be signed with Britain, as it too does not include any secret matters.

Shaykh 'Ali is accompanied on his visit by a large delegation of senior officers representing the various services of the Kuwaiti Army.

Delegation To Visit Iran, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon

LD1202082492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0726 GMT
12 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Feb (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti National Council delegation today began a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the context of a tour that will include the Republic of Turkey, the Syrian Republic, and the Republic of Lebanon.

Before his departure the chairman of the National Council and leader of the delegation, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Msa'id, said that the visits came within the framework of offering gratitude to those countries for their honorable stances and for supporting Kuwait's just position. Msa'id added that the delegation would discuss the issue of the prisoners and kidnapped, who were experiencing an ordeal, and would seek the assistance of those countries on that subject at international gatherings.

The trip is also aimed at strengthening the political, economic, social, and cultural ties between Kuwait and those countries by building bridges of trust—particularly as trust in the region has been undermined by Iraq.

War Reparations to Citizens Under Discussion

NC1102205692 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1700 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The National Council held an ordinary session this morning chaired by Council Speaker 'Abd al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id in the presence of ministers and council members.

After signing the proceedings of its previous session and looking into proposals by some of its members, the council held a secret session to discuss a report from the financial and economic affairs committee on proposals [words indistinct] by some members about compensating citizens for damages inflicted as a result of the flagrant Iraqi aggression.

The council speaker said at the end of the session that there was a general agreement on the financial committee's report on reparations and on referring it to the government.

Oil Minister Previews OPEC Conference Agenda

LD1102131792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1130 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 11 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamud al-Ruqba said today that the meeting of

OPEC's Ministerial Committee in charge of market-monitoring, due to be held in Geneva tomorrow, will discuss reduction of OPEC's production ceiling, during this year's second quarter and the current market glut.

The Minister said that a Kuwaiti oil storage depot will be fully equipped in one week, which will allow a boost in production.

Asked about the drainage of oil lakes, he said: "There are no new developments and we have cancelled all invitations to bid, given the high costs. Even if we bring in other companies we will not save any time. We are restricted by the storage operation. The Kuwaiti Oil Company is now carrying out the drainage work, the volume of which will increase daily".

The Minister said that Kuwait's 1.5 million barrel-share in OPEC oil is not subject to discussion or compromise and that OPEC members understand that and it is not a matter for disagreement.

Answering another question he said: "Supply and demand determine prices. As I said, our meeting should reduce supply so as to make it compatible with the volume of demand. In order to stabilize oil prices, the existing market surplus has to be absorbed".

He said that oil-well drilling continues in Kuwait. Twenty-eight wells have so far been drilled and repair of the remaining wells is underway.

The Minister said that there will be cooperation among all the Gulf Cooperation Council member states in OPEC. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Djibouti Prime Minister

LD0902103192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabi 0948 GMT
9 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Feb (KUNA)—The Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today had a meeting with Djibouti Prime Minister Gourad Hamadou Bakrat who is currently visiting Kuwait.

The office of the Amir which released the report did not give details of what had been discussed. It is however believed that the meeting dealt with bilateral issues and matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

Minister Departs 10 Feb

NC1002134292 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Excerpt] His Excellency Gourad Hamadou Barkat, prime minister of fraternal Djibouti, left Kuwait at 1100 today at the end of an official three-day visit. [passage omitted]

Oman

New Ambassadors to Iran, Russia Appointed

PM1202101492 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER
in English 9 Feb 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "HM Issues Four Decrees"]

[Text] Muscat—His Majesty Sultan Qabus yesterday issued four Royal Decrees.

The first amends the law of social insurances.

The second declares a road project in the wilayats of al-Liwa' and Shinas a public utility.

The third Decree appoints Musallam Bin-Bakhit Bin-Zaydan al-Bar'ami as Oman's Ambassador to Iran.

The fourth appoints Dawud Bin-Hamdan Bin-'Abdallah al-Hamdan as the Sultanate's Ambassador to Russia.

Saudi Arabia

Sources Confirm Crackdown on Religious Police

JN1202085192 Amman JORDAN TIMES
in English 12 Feb 92 pp 1,5

["Special from Riyadh"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia's ultraconservative regime, caught between domestic and external pressure to liberalise the kingdom and internal calls for stricter adherence to Islamic principles, has cracked down on militant Islamic zealots. But the government has denied it has arrested opposition members.

An unnamed government spokesman told the Saudi press agency last week that concerning Western and Arab press reports "about detention and differences in opinion in Saudi Arabia, we reaffirm anew that all these are categorically unfounded."

But according to sources interviewed by the Jordan Times, the government did arrest hundreds of "religious police" in the capital after they marched to the palace of Prince Salman, governor of Riyadh, to protest being banned from the al-Shulah shopping area. They were banned by Prince Mash'al, the owner of the centre, after "they simply got out of hand," said one Saudi businessman.

The government, increasingly embarrassed by Western complaints of harassment in the kingdom, which hosts nearly four million foreigners, moved to confiscate many trademark GMC trucks, which the religious police, known as mutawwa, use to roam the streets in groups of five or six to enforce their brand of Islamic law.

According to several Saudi sources, prior to the march to Prince Salman's palace the demonstrators were warned that they would be arrested. There have been some

unconfirmed reports that several protesters were killed when palace guards opened fire on the religious police.

According to one source, some of those arrested could be executed to send a clear message to dissidents in the kingdom. This could not be confirmed by other sources.

"They simply were becoming too militant... they were on the rampage," said another Saudi businessman. "They went too far and the government cracked down on them."

The religious police, an antithesis to Saudi Arabians seeking political and social liberalisation, had increased their militancy, especially in the downtown souks, shopping centres and schools, prior to their arrest.

Saudis and expatriates report harassment by the zealots to impose their brand of Islam, accusing women of prostitution because they wear perfume and aggressively harass veiled women.

"I was scared to leave my house because the mutawwa' would chase and sometimes threaten me," said a Saudi woman, who wears a veil, abaya and a face cover when she leaves her home. "They even harassed my 10-year-old daughter, who was totally covered, because her wrist was showing... this is not Islam."

Many expatriates in Riyadh say the situation has improved after the arrest but they still fear having too many cars parked outside their homes, an indication that there is a party inside and possibly an invitation for the mutawwa to place them under surveillance or try to enter.

After the Gulf war, King Fahd moved to assuage the zealots by providing them with extra funding. Many rejected the presence of foreign troops on Saudi soil, the site of Islam's holiest shrines, but overall remained silent.

Other indications of the newly acquired boldness of dissidents were signed petitions challenging government policy. One petition, addressed to the head of the religious establishment in the Kingdom, Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, challenges Saudi participation in the Middle East peace conference in Madrid last year as contrary to Islamic obligation to fight the Jews and regain control of Islam's holy places.

The petition, signed by theologians, judges and religious teachers, said the peace talks were tantamount to capitulation and that no truce was permissible with Islam's enemies, such as Israel.

It said those preparing to sign peace with Israel did not belong to Islam, citing in particular the rulers of Syria, many of whom belong to the unorthodox 'Alawite sect.

Another petition called on the ruling family to reform the system, criticising state corruption, and to enforce Islamic teaching more strictly.

The petition signed by hundreds of Muslim ulema, judges, university professors and preachers, criticised corruption in the political and economic system and called on King Fahd to implement a series of reforms, including setting up a shura council and reviewing state laws to ensure conformity with the Holy Koran and Islamic jurisprudence.

"In these difficult times in which we realised the need for change, we find it imperative to direct our energies towards reform," the petition said.

It pointed out that members of the shura council "must be specialised individuals who are known for their honesty, loyalty and total independence, capable of resisting pressure that may influence the council's function." They want a council through which Saudis who are not members of the royal family could participate in governing.

The petition also called for "a review of existing political, economic and administrative laws and regulations to abolish what contradicts Islamic sharia."

The long list of demands also includes "achieving a measure of justice and equality among members of the society, prosecuting high-ranking officials without exceptions for crimes such as corruption and mismanagement." It also urged a "fair distribution of public funds among citizens."

Although most of the signatories come from the religious and academic establishment, which is profoundly fundamentalist, some of their demands are usually associated with Saudi liberals.

One analyst said the "ulema remained silent and behaved during the war period and now they are asking to be rewarded for their cooperation. They want their share of power."

Western diplomats quoted by Reuters said that secret tapes by militant Saudi zealots fulminating against a wide range of topics from American weapons to liberated women to modern Arab poetry are circulating privately throughout the Gulf region.

Shaykh Bin-Baz responded indirectly last month to the petitions by denouncing those who change the Islamic credentials of their political opponents, arguing that debate involving varying interpretations of Islam should be conducted on a more rational basis.

Although most analysts do not foresee a threat to the powerful regime, Shaykh Bin-Baz's response indicates that the authorities were taking seriously criticism by the zealots.

Some analysts claim the increased militancy, which eventually led to the crackdown, was provoked by the government and was not only a legacy of the Gulf war that brought resentment of deeper Western influences and hopes of more representative government.

These analysts contend the government planted agents within the religious police network to carry out militant acts in order to give the government an excuse to crackdown on the mutawwa', which were becoming more vocal in their criticism of the government's internal and external policies.

Fahd Greet's Iranian President on National Day

LD1102221492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1652 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Feb (SPA)—King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a message to President of the Islamic Republic of Iran His Excellency Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the anniversary of his country's national day. In his message, the custodian of the two holy mosques expressed, on behalf of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and personally, the deepest congratulations and most sincere wishes of lasting good health and happiness for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and of continuing progress and lasting prosperity for the brotherly people of Iran.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Hails Cooperation Talks

LD1102232492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 11 Feb, (SPA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the beginning of meetings of the Saudi-Egyptian joint commission for bilateral cooperation, with the participation of a number of ministers from the Kingdom and Egypt, has strengthened the close brotherly ties between the two countries. In a press statement after his arrival in Riyadh today, 'Amr Musa expressed his hope that the commission's work will achieve a substantial success that will bring joint benefit to the brotherly Saudi and Egyptian peoples. [passage omitted] On his part, the Foreign Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, said: Since the founding of the commission at the instructions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and President Husni Mubarak, its aim has been to develop cooperation between the two countries in order to express the tangible reality of the close ties between the two peoples and leaderships. [passage omitted]

Joint Saudi-Egyptian Commission Meets

LD1102233392 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1547 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 11 Feb. (SPA)—Meetings of the fourth session of the Saudi-Egyptian joint commission for bilateral cooperation opened this afternoon at the palace of conferences in Riyadh under the chairmanship of the (Saudi) Foreign Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 'Amr Musa.

Taking part in the meeting on the Saudi side were Muhammad al-'Ali Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Dr. Salih al-'Adhl, president of King Abd al-'Aziz City of Sciences and Technology; Al-Rahman Mansuri, foreign ministry undersecretary for political affairs and some officials. Those taking part on the Egyptian side were Dr Maurice Makaramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, finance minister; Dr. 'Adil 'Abd-al-Hamid 'IZZ, minister of (state) for scientific research, Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade and the ambassador of Egypt to the Kingdom, Muhammad Fathi al-Shadhli. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness said: "We would like to reiterate, now that Kuwait has been liberated and as a guarantee against a repetition of what has happened, our adherence and commitment to the full implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions relating to the aggression of the Iraqi regime against the sister state of Kuwait".

His Royal Highness added that he believed that the firmness of the international stand during the crisis triggered by the aggression of the Iraqi regime against Kuwait has proved that the international legitimacy was capable of imposing its will and guarantee the implementation of its resolutions. This stand has also fortified the bases of the new world order which emphasize the need to consecrate the will of peace and strengthen world stability. They have also increased the hope that the international legitimacy would reaffirm its determination for the implementation of its resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal went on to say: "From this premise and in accordance with the path of cooperation and solidarity we have together made genuine efforts to boost the peace process in our region with a view to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue which would guarantee the exercise by the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights and the recovery of the occupied Arab territories, foremost holy Jerusalem, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and all other related resolutions of the international legitimacy".

His Royal Highness further said: "The Arab negotiators participating in the bilateral negotiations have confirmed their honest desire and real readiness to enter serious negotiations aimed at consecrating the will of peace". He added in this respect: "But unfortunately this stand was continuously met with Israeli obstinacy and Israel's repeated attempts to thwart the peace process". He went on to say: "The hope to see the bilateral negotiations achieve, at the forthcoming round, a noticeable progress toward the desired goals spurs us on again".

His Royal Highness the foreign minister also hailed the Arabs' serious and committed stands which manifested

themselves through the participation of the Arab delegations in the multilateral talks launched in Moscow last month.

His Royal Highness stressed that this Arab participation had contributed in highlighting a firm international conviction that the multilateral talks were not an alternative to the bilateral negotiations, but they complement them; their primary aim is to support the peace process and establish willingness of peace.

His Royal Highness the foreign minister indicated that the participation of Arab delegations in the multilateral talks had confirmed at the same time that it was illogical to envisage any cooperation in the region as long as Arab territories remain under the treacherous Israeli occupation, as long as the Palestinian people is deprived of exercising its legitimate right to self-determination, and as long as Israel continues its colonialist policy inside Arab occupied land and its oppressive practices against the Palestinian people who is still subjected to repression, imprisonment and deportation.

His Royal Highness stated: "Consequently, these multilateral talks cannot achieve any progress as long as the bilateral negotiations do not achieve any fundamental and tangible progress, and as long as Israel does not halt building settlements inside Arab occupied territories, and that it should respect the text and spirit of the fourth Geneva Agreement". [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness expressed his expectation that the memorandum of cooperation in the fields of science and technology, the agreement of the Saudi Development Fund for financing the Cairo- Asyut road project and the ministerial minutes for mutual customs exemption of more goods would be signed during these meetings. [passage omitted]

Then His Excellency the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 'Amr Musa, delivered a speech in which he expressed his happiness and that of the accompanying delegation at attending the fourth session of the joint Saudi-Egyptian committee on bilateral cooperation. He stressed the importance of these meetings to consolidate cooperation between the two countries to the benefit of the two fraternal peoples.

'Amr Musa said "our work in this committee is blessed and required; rather it is exemplary, so that Arab action progresses along studied steps of implementation." He added "the Middle East region is going through a critical period, unprecedented in history, and this period calls for much reflection and work." His Excellency the Egyptian foreign minister defined the most important problems facing Arab action in four matters: security, development, the Arab order and peace. He pointed out that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt are participants in pushing matters forward and in placing the Arab position on the right road towards the achievement of sound and positive results.

'Amr Musa said on the security issue: We talk within the framework of the eight sister countries: the Gulf Cooperation Council states, Syria and Egypt, we talk about a visualization agreed by all, for after the tyrannical Iraqi aggression against the state of Kuwait, the Arab order was severely shaken. He emphasized that the role of the Kingdom and Egypt in this matter is important, and the Arab world cannot reach a shore that achieves peace for all without playing this positive role.

On the issue of development he said "the situation in our region requires much cooperation for the sake of development. Hence the projects agreed by us constitute serious steps on the road of achieving development in the interest of the two peoples and countries.

[passage omitted] With regard to the issue of peace, the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt affirmed that Egypt and the Kingdom were partners in the peace process which is based on a clear and complete foundation which none of us can renounce. He pointed out that the peace process cannot make a single step forward without the regaining of the Arab territories.

He also made clear that Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had one policy toward Moscow talks which is based on good intentions towards peace.

The Egyptian foreign minister emphasized that any future step should be linked to the progress on the basis of restoring the occupied Arab territories.

His Excellency expressed his hopes that the peace process, bilateral talks and multilateral talks would progress. At the same time he warned that what Israel has been doing in the occupied territories and the statements of the Israeli officials about greater Israel, about the settlements and about denying the proven rights in Jerusalem would obstruct and weaken the peace efforts.

His Excellency wished that the Arab and international solidarity will be able to put an end to the Israeli continuation to build settlements. [passage omitted]

He concluded his speech by saying: We think that all the Arab relations should be based on firm grounds of mutual benefit.

After that the opening session was concluded. The committee resumed its meetings this evening.

Joint Ventures, Investments Detailed

LD1102180892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, 11 February, SPA—In a statement to SPA on the occasion of the convening of the Saudi-Egyptian joint commission in Riyadh, a responsible source at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy said that documents available at the ministry indicate that the Saudi private sector has contributed with Egyptian companies and individuals to 191 joint ventures in the Arab Republic of Egypt; the Saudi private sector has

contributed at an overall average rate of 26 percent of the capital. The total value of the share of Saudi investors in these ventures is 2.565 billion Saudi riyals. Twelve of the ventures are in the free zones in Egypt and the rest are in other regions within the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The ventures include over 18 investment spheres. However, the majority are in food production, chemical industries, tourism, and so on.

On the other hand, 33 ventures are currently being set up, but have not yet been completed; the Saudi private sector has contributed an average rate of 21 percent of the capital involved. There are also 27 other investment ventures which the Saudi private sector has obtained permission to set up, but work on them has not yet started.

The documents indicate the extent of the great economic ties between the Saudi and Egyptian economies. Saudi private investment in Egypt is regarded as the largest, in terms of number and size, of any foreign investments.

Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis Pays Visit

Received by King Fahd

LD1202001592 Riyadh SPA in English 1951 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 11, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received at Al-Yamamah Palace here tonight Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis.

The royal audience was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Ibrahim al-Anqari, special adviser of King Fahd, Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, the finance and national economy minister, Faysal al-Hujaylan, the health minister and escort minister and 'Abdallah al-Malhuq, the Saudi Ambassador to Greece.

It was also attended by the Greek premier accompanying delegation.

Holds Talks With King in Riyadh

NC1202080092 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio
Network in Greek 2200 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis had one hour of particularly warm talks with Saudi Arabian King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud in Riyadh tonight. The prime minister then attended an official dinner hosted in his honor by his Saudi Arabian counterpart [title as heard] and the heir to the throne, 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. They exchanged toasts, stressing their countries' links and the desire to develop these.

The delegations held talks late tonight and tomorrow morning the Greek and Saudi Arabian prime ministers will sign economic bilateral agreements before Mitsotakis and his entourage leave for Kuwait at 1400.

In today's talks Konstandinos Mitsotakis and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud discussed the Middle East issue, the Cyprus problem, and the Balkan situation. The king particularly wanted to be briefed on Cyprus and the situation in Yugoslavia. The prime minister referred to the Cyprus problem's details and aspects and to the situation in Yugoslavia following the federation's dissolution. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud agreed with the Greek prime minister on the need for an immediate solution of the Cyprus issue according to UN decisions and resolutions. The Saudi Arabian king pointed out our country's important role in the Balkan region and accepted Greek positions on more specific problems faced in that area. The king described Greece as a factor for stability and peace and promised to try hard to help reach a Cyprus solution within the UN framework. Mitsotakis analyzed established positions on the Middle East problem and assured the Saudi Arabia king of Greece's interest in a Middle East solution according to the UN decisions and the need for the region's states to coexist peacefully.

Crown Prince, Mitsotakis Confer

LD1202100792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2117 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, held an official meeting with Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis this evening.

On the Saudi side the meeting was attended by Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, and Health Minister Faysal al-Hujaylan. [passage omitted]

Mitsotakis Meets With al-Faysal

NC1202115292 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio
Network in Greek 1000 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis will sign bilateral economic agreements in Saudi Arabia today.

At King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud's request, Mitsotakis changed his program and will leave this afternoon instead of in the morning for Kuwait where he will have talks with the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabbah. The change was made because the Saudi Arabian monarch invited the Greek prime minister to join him on a visit to (Zinatryah) to attend traditional local activities. Press and Information Secretary General Vasilios Manginas, who is accompanying the prime minister, said that the Saudi Arabian king's request was a special honor, proving their two peoples' close ties of friendship and cooperation and his recognition that Greece is a significant factor for stability and peace in the area.

Shortly before leaving for (Zinatryah), the prime minister held an unscheduled meeting with Saudi Arabian

Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, which lasted approximately one hour. A Manginas statement said that the prime minister briefed the prince extensively on the Cyprus issue and stressed that its solution is being sought based on UN decision, logic, and justice. Al Sa'ud told Mitsotakis that Saudi Arabia will support a just and lasting Cyprus solution and accepts that it is time to solve Greece's national issue. The two men also exchanged views on the Balkan and Middle East problems.

National Economy Minister Evthimios Khristodhoulou, who is accompanying the prime minister, and the Greek delegation held talks this morning with their Saudi Arabian counterparts and agreed to further develop bilateral relations, particularly those in the economic sector.

Yemen

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa 11 Feb

JN1102123692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Sanaa this morning on a visit to our country during which he will hold talks with senior officials on the warm relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, the latest developments in both the Arab and Palestinian arenas, and issues of common interest.

Confers With Army Chief of Staff

LD1102234592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met this morning [in Sanaa] with Brigadier General Muhammad Haytham, chief of the General Staff of the Yemeni Army. During the meeting, the two men discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments concerning the Palestinian cause. The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Ahmad Mifrah, commander of the Palestinian forces in Yemen, and brother Yahya Rabah, the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa. President Abu-'Ammar arrived in the Yemeni capital Sanaa at dawn today.

President Salih Makes Inspection Tour of Aden

EA0902093792 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] [Lieutenant] General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, accompanied by the member of the Presidential Council, Mr. Salim Salih Muhammad, arrived this afternoon [7 February] in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, on an inspection to the city, where he will get acquainted with the progress of work in the offices of the branches of the ministries, organs, and corporations, the progress of achieving the service and development projects in the governorate and to get acquainted with the worries and aspirations of the citizens. [passage omitted] It is worth mentioning that Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Mr. Salim Salih Muhammad and those accompanying them this morning paid an inspection visit to al-Jawf district in Mahrah governorate, where they were received by shaykhs and officials of the district. [passage omitted]

Saddam Hails Veterans at Commendation Ceremony
*JN1102193292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1834 GMT
11 Feb 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has said that there are thousands of examples of heroism in the al-Qadisiyah battles and the Mother of Battles, and that each example deserves to be preserved in history. The leader president said: Our state is committed to selling commodities at the lowest prices in the world, to sparing the citizens the evil of hunger. The ration cards are gradually expanding and improving in quantity and quality along with the improving circumstances.

Leader President Saddam Husayn also said: If we take the traditional or normal course of development, we will not be able to achieve our goals. The gap between us and the advanced states will continue.

The leader president's remarks came while he was awarding medals of valor to a number of our heroic fighters from the Republican Guards and the other units of our brave Armed Forces for their distinguished role in confronting the enemies in the different stages of the epic Mother of Battles.

The leader president said: In difficult times, man should remember God's law that He created life and death and that it is He alone who gives and takes life. Such a remembrance will enlighten hearts and be a guide to the right position and place. The leader president then thanked God for the safety of Iraq and our fighters, and for guiding us to the right position, to which the nation owes its progress, although we offered such a sacrifice for its sake.

The leader president wished mercy for our righteous martyrs in heaven. The medal awarding ceremony was attended by Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office; and Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, chief of staff of the Army.

Following is the text of the president's speech:

The president said: I wanted to hear from you about things that took place during your fight against the enemy, whether in the chapter of the direct aggression, or in the chapter of treason and treachery during the Mother of Battles. I believe these things are striking and should be mentioned in such a meeting.

Take one really remarkable example. The day before yesterday, I met with four veterans of the Mother of Battles. They were the director of the al-Kut Police, the director of security in al-Kut, the director of intelligence in al-Kut, and the secretary of the party organization in al-Kut.

When the fighting in the Mother of Battles started, each of them was fulfilling his role and duty. They all praised

the people of Wasit Governorate and their position against the aggression and the agents, with the exception of one bubble that emerged in one of the governorate's districts.

These men had a distinguished stand when the fighting started. They met and swore on the holy Koran that none of them would leave al-Kut unless wrapped in the Iraqi flag; that is, as a martyr protecting their city. They fought bravely, despite the fact that the enemies who entered al-Kut crossed the border with Iran in the company of well-trained Iranian fighters, who were even in military uniform. As a result of their stand, and with a small force under their command, these comrades managed to defeat the aggressors.

One of the men, the director of intelligence, revealed the size of the force that was under his command. I told him that when his comrades distributed duties, they used to give him many of these duties without knowing the size of the force under his command. He has not told them about its size.

Since the role of the director of intelligence in a city like al-Kut is limited, he had no more than 15 people under his command. His comrades, however, thought that he commanded a large group, and whenever they used to assign a certain duty to him, he would agree to carry out that duty, and would not say no.

The matter remained a secret, and he only told them about it the day before yesterday, in my presence.

They fought in a distinguished manner. Their behavior was also intelligent: When they heard that the Republican Guards were moving toward them to help, they began calling, through loudspeakers, on people to receive the Republican Guards in certain areas. When the enemy knew that the Republican Guards were coming, they fled. Our fighters thus confronted them easily. Later, the Republican Guards arrived to liquidate the remnants of the enemy. This is a good example for men to follow. Old people have told me some of the history of World War I. They told me that the Turkish soldiers took defensive positions near the city of Tikrit, and that they mounted a cannon on al-Sakan Hill to cover their retreat before the British troops. This cannon was manned by someone called Mamend, who continued to shell the British troops to allow the Turkish soldiers to escape. Out of hospitality and with Islamic spirit, one of the city's men went to Mamend, carrying a quantity of watermelons, bread, and water for him, but Mamend refused to eat or drink, and said: I did not come here to eat or drink, but to perform my duty. Had I wanted some food or water, I would have joined my retreating comrades.

I gave these two examples because I want you to talk with the same spirit about the Mother of Battles, and to give examples like those I mentioned. Inevitably, there are thousands of examples from al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles, and each example has its own story.

After a number of our fighters spoke about their colleagues' experiences in confronting the aggressors, the leader president said:

Let each one of you ask himself from time to time how many military manuals he has read, and let each one of you, regardless of his rank, ask himself how many military manuals he has read in his field of speciality, or about the corps with which he is affiliated. The stone in nature, which will vanish gradually by erosion and corrosion if nothing is added to it. The same thing applies to man. If nothing is added to his faith, mind, or experience, then he will not catch up with life around him and will be, relatively speaking, leveled to the ground. If others make more steps forward, more than the ordinary rate, then he will remain behind them and will be flattened to the ground, even if he tries to be a little above it.

Take the example of your country. Many are asking: Why are we in a race with time? Why are these exceptional efforts being exerted to develop the country at high speed? Should we have not avoided troubles and let development take its course in accordance with the rates known in the world; that is, 2 to 3 percent? To tell you the truth, had we accepted that rate of development, those who had been starving in Iraq before the revolution would still be starving.

Because we have developed at an exceptional speed, nobody is hungry, despite the blockade and its circumstances, unlike many other states in the world.

I know that some will tell me that the prices of commodities are high. I know that and I am following up on it. The commodities provided through the ration card are available at the lowest prices.

The commodities listed on the card, covering the basic supplies that are necessary for life, are being provided to citizens at prices less than in yellow Asia, black Africa, or even luxurious Europe.

Thus, our state is committed to selling materials that fend off the evil of hunger at the lowest prices in the world. There is no state in the world which provides these materials to its people at the same prices offered by Iraq.

On this basis, I confidently say that nobody is hungry in Iraq, as people were before the revolution. Someone may ask: How much is the foreign dress that a woman may wear now?

My answer is: The price of some dresses may reach 500 dinars, others may be worth 1,000 dinars, 1,500 dinars, or more. I am confident, however, that the woman who wears such a dress and buys it for this purpose must have many other similar dresses, and she must be able to pay the price.

Therefore, she who buys such a dress does not buy it to meet a need, she buys it as a form of luxury. If we stand in front of boutiques or shops that sell such clothes and

ask any client about how many similar dresses she has, she will reply that she has many.

We cannot say that we have nothing to do with this case, but I say this is a different case because the price of a dress of this kind does not worry me; what concerns me is citizens not finding food to sustain themselves. What really concerns me is citizens not finding subsistence. In the past, citizens used to store this subsistence—which was a quantity of barley or corn mixed with some grains—so as to make it easy to put in the oven. Thanks to God, we have provided better subsistence than in those days, in addition to stew, sugar, and tea. Gradually, the ration card will expand and will improve in quantity and quality whenever the circumstances improve.

Again, I say that through gradual, traditional, or normal development we would not be able to realize our objectives or catch up with the world. The developed countries accept an ordinary growth rate because they have made a lot of progress. If we realize the same growth with 2 or 3 percent, etc., then the gap between us and them will remain and we will stay behind. If we move slowly according to the traditionally recognized rates, our people will not reach their goals and will remain backward, and the chance of the people to interact with the future will be wasted.

I gave this example to tell everyone that if you do not develop as a military force, others will develop, and after a short time, you will see others ahead of you and you will be called backward.

This happened during the war. Some of our comrades continued to live in the past. Months after the eruption of the revolution, I told them that we had begun a new stage. It is true that the past is a depth for the struggler, but if his mentality does not work in light of and develop the present and its requirements to preserve his status, he will appear backward regardless of his past, and he will also see others ahead of him. This actually happened to some of our comrades. But those who developed themselves and their capabilities will continue to make progress.

I told one of my companions that I noticed that a certain person was repeating himself. This means that he stopped reading because he neither used new vocabulary nor meditated. Meditation is an important element for reading because it creates self-suffering and enables ideas to find new outlets.

In life, if people continue to repeat the same words in their conversations, their words will become ineffective. This also applies to men of religion. When a man of religion has a general education, he can use the spirit or essence of the Koranic verses for evidence and can explain more about them and the way they are used. But a man of religion who knows nothing except the verses and the Prophet's traditions cannot connect the essence of these verses and traditions with life's requirements.

This kind of religious man cannot add anything to the knowledge of the listener during a Friday sermon, as anyone can read the Koranic verses and their explanations, and can also read the traditions. People do not listen to a Friday sermon merely to learn the texts, but also to listen to a faithful sermon that has a link with its time, in order to create a bridge between the present and his suffering on the one hand, and the causes and circumstances under which the verse was revealed on the other.

Finally, I must repeat these two points: The first is that you should read, because you will not get water unless you dig in the ground.

The second thing that I advise you to adopt is specialized education, because specialization draws its renewable meaning, in terms of concepts and behavior, from general education. If someone reads scientific, political, or social subjects available to him, then these are all supports in life that develop one's personality. No one should say he does not read because he is too busy. There is always time to read.

Reading also helps organize and arrange ideas. Try to write about various things, including letters to your children in which you can direct them about what to do. Try to deal with certain issues—such as talking about humanitarian values and meanings—with them by putting these things on paper, because you can help prepare them this way. This practice will also improve your ability to write. Writing provides one with the opportunity to organize his ideas and to deal with the subject at hand in detail and in short sentences. We all need such practice.

The president concluded his speech by saying: Thus, these epics, which we have fought, have now become the subject of good chats and stories and a great history. Some people thought they would not be so.

It was a yellow, dusty, and miserable wind [reference to Iran]. It was followed by a dark wind in the next chapter, the Mother of Battles. Man, however, remains man. In difficult circumstances, he should remember the law of God; that God created man to live and die, and that He alone gives and takes life. Nothing can cause death to he whom God wants to live. Such a thought lightens our hearts and guides one to the correct stand and position.

I thank God that you are safe. I thank God that Iraq is safe. I also thank God that there is an incentive for supreme values in a nation which, for 1,000 years, has been lacking the lighthouse to guide it to the soundest stand and the most sublime value. I thank God that he guided us to the correct position, for which we have made great sacrifices. Nonetheless, the nation's renaissance owes a humanitarian and pan-Arab debt to this position and to the blood of our virtuous martyrs, whom we beseech God to grant His mercy in paradise, God willing.

May God bless you.

Officers Awarded Valor Medals

JN1102183092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Feb 92

["Text" of Republican Decrees issued by Saddam Husayn at a ceremony to award medals to veterans of the Gulf war]

[Text] Following are the texts of the republican decrees:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican Decree:

In appreciation of the courage demonstrated by fighter Major General Talib 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun in defense of the nation's honor and strength as well as great Iraq during the Mother of Battles, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

Fighter Major General Talib 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun shall be awarded three medals of valor. The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republican Decree:

In appreciation of the courage demonstrated by the fighters whose names are listed below in defense of the nation's honor, dignity, and pride in the Mother of Battles and defending great Iraq, and based on the provisions of Article 26 of the Amended Medals and Badges Law No. 95 of 1982, we have decreed the following:

1. Fighter Brigadier General Anwar 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad Mahmud shall be granted four medals of valor.

2. The following fighters shall be granted three medals of valor:

—Fighter Staff Brigadier General Ra'd Majid Rashid.
—Fighter Staff Brigadier General Salih Isma'il Khalil.
—Fighter Brigadier General Husayn Humud Dhiyab.
—Fighter Staff Brigadier General 'Ubayd 'Abdallah Fayyad.

3. Fighter Staff Colonel Khalid Muhammad Shakir shall be granted five medals of valor.

4. The following fighters shall be granted four medals of valor:

—Fighter Colonel Hashim Hammad Khudayyir.
—Fighter Colonel Isma'il Yusuf Khalifah.
—Fighter Colonel Habib Hamid Yusuf.

5. The following fighters shall be granted three medals of valor:

—Fighter Staff Colonel As'ad Hamid Hasan.

- Fighter Colonel Turdi Salih 'Uwayyid.
- Fighter Colonel Walid Qasim Muhammad.
- Fighter Colonel Muhammad Shihab Shakir.
- Fighter Colonel 'Adil Jasim Husayn.
- Fighter Colonel Khalil Ibrahim Dawud.
- Fighter Colonel Fa'al Hawsi 'Asmi.
- Fighter Colonel Ni'mah Mahmud Hattab.
- Fighter Colonel 'Abd-al-Majid Ibrahim Ahmad.
- Fighter Colonel Faysal Salih Mahmud.
- Fighter Colonel Sami Hammad al-Fayyad.
- Fighter Colonel 'Ubayd Sallal Farhan.
- Fighter Colonel Fayiq Sabir 'Ashwan.
- Fighter Colonel Ahmad Naji al-'Abd-al-Baqi.
- Fighter Colonel Latif Dahi Dhibyan.
- Fighter Colonel Ghazi Khalil Ghazi.
- Fighter Colonel Muhammad Amin Ahmad.
- Fighter Colonel Mu'adh Dawud Yusuf.
- Fighter Colonel Hazim Khalil Bakr.
- Fighter Colonel Muhammad Khadr Muhaymid.
- Fighter Colonel Sayf-al-Din Salih al-Duhamah.
- Fighter Colonel 'Ali Ghaylan Yusr.
- Fighter Colonel Fadil Nayif Badr.
- Fighter Colonel Sabri Mustafa Muhammad Hasan.
- Fighter Colonel Muhyi Ahmad 'Abd.
- Fighter Colonel 'Adil 'Abd-al-Razzaq Sa'id.
- Fighter Colonel Sa'il Husayn Hamid.
- Fighter Colonel Sa'dun 'Abdallah Salih.
- Fighter Staff Colonel Hatim Muhsin 'Ali.
- Fighter Staff Colonel Nuri Dawud Mish'al.

6. Fighters Lieutenant Colonel Sufyan Dahham 'Ali and Lieutenant Colonel Taha Mustafa Isma'il shall be granted four medals of valor.

7. The following fighters shall be granted three medals of valor:

- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Hamid Kazim Husayn.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Jasim Yasin Mahdi.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Sa'di 'Abd-al-Rahman Tabur.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Jamal Salih Talla'.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Farhan Husayn Hawi.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Rahim 'Abbud Muslih.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Hani Sa'id fattuhi.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Faris Salih Mahmud.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Bashir Muhammad Ibrahim.
- Fighter Lieutenant Colonel Khalid 'Abd-al-Ghafur Ibsih.
- Fighter Major Dr. Radwan 'Abd-al-Majid Hamid.

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Husayn Kamil Hasan Appointed Adviser to Saddam

JN1202091992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0908 GMT
12 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decision appointing Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan as adviser to the president of the Republic.

The RCC decision stipulated that Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan shall enjoy the salary and allowances of a minister and keep his military rank.

UN Team's Inspection of Mosul Jail 'Strange'

JN1102181392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1743 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—INA has learned that a group from the 10th nuclear inspection team, currently visiting the country, on Monday, 10 February 1992 carried out a strange search operation for an alleged reactor when they asked, during a visit to Mosul, to inspect the city's jail. Naturally, they did not find what they were looking for there.

Prisoners in the jail received the team by chanting: "Bush, Bush listen well; we all love Saddam Husayn."

The inspection team's conduct confirms what Iraq has repeatedly stressed; that the inspection teams have lost their credibility and violated their mandate and terms of reference.

Inspecting Mosul's jail under the pretext of the existence of searching for nuclear activity and the like reflects the extent of moral degeneration that the United States has reached in its abuse of the United Nations and its teams. The United States no longer has any technical or political justification. Therefore, it began to fabricate allegations and lies to justify the criminal blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

What is really astonishing and weird is that the international parties, particularly the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], do not even have the courage to resist the tyrannical and silly U.S. requests and to refuse—from a firm scientific and technical point of view—to search such places. No one can imagine that the IAEA has reached a level of ignorance to the extent where it cannot differentiate between a jail and the site of a nuclear reactor.

Official Condemns British Minister's Remarks

JN1102205192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1942 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, has commented on the speech delivered by Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, before the British House of Commons on Wednesday, 3 February 1992. In his speech, Hogg cast doubt on the efficiency of

the international community's system for controlling what he termed Iraq's nuclear capabilities.

In a statement to INA, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that what Hogg alleged in his speech is another link in the unjust, suspect campaign that is being launched by the forces of hegemony against Iraq. This campaign has a host of suspect purposes which, among other things, aim to thwart the growing trend in the international community and inside the UN Security Council calling for lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, or at least for easing it, and to prepare for interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

He added that it is astonishing that the planners and executors of this unjust campaign even ignore the minimum level of sedateness and objectivity which they claim to possess. Having committed the brutal military aggression against Iraq; having attacked defenseless civilians; and having bombarded scientific, economic, and civilian installations in an unparalleled barbaric aggression, they made the UN Security Council issue a series of unjust resolutions that are unprecedented in their overstepping the UN Security Council's jurisdictions as stipulated by the UN Charter. Then they created a mechanism for the implementation of these resolutions through which they gave the Special Committee, which they set up, and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] unlimited authority, and filled their inspection teams with intelligence officers and supported them with helicopters and the U.S. U-2 spy plane. Moreover, they provided these teams with the intelligence that their satellites and other means are gathering.

He noted: Thus, after the UN Special Committee and the IAEA completed eight months of inspections, surveys, and destruction in accordance with these unlimited powers, the British minister of state casts doubt on the effectiveness of the UN Security Council resolutions and their implementation—resolutions into which his government instilled its meanness and hidden historical rancor against Iraq.

He emphasized: The side that possesses the nuclear capability threatening the region's security is the Zionist entity, not Iraq. The Zionist entity is continuing its expansionist policy in the Arab territories. If there are UN Security Council resolutions which were not implemented, then they are the resolutions related to the Zionist entity's nuclear capabilities.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said: Douglas Hogg's statements expose the suspect intentions and policies of his government, which uses deception and camouflage, and hides behind the UN Security Council and the IAEA after they have made these organizations void of their true content, paralyzed them, and imposed fear on them until they became submissive tools in their hands.

Concluding his statements, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: By making these statements, the British Minister Hogg also exposes the plans of his masters, who become very angry when they see Iraq,

despite all the crimes they have perpetrated against it and its patient and steadfast people, pursue the march of reconstruction and safeguard its dignity and that of its Arab nation under the banner of its mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

Opposition Denies Cooperating With CIA

NC1102165692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] AFP cites anonymous Gulf-based diplomats as saying that the Iraqi opposition and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, are cooperating to set up a unified collective command that could replace the tyrant Saddam if he is toppled in the near future.

According to the same sources, the CIA has gotten in touch with a number of little-known Iraqi opposition figures who have never made any concessions to the regime.

We have contacted Shaykh al-Farah Zaki, a prominent member of the Iraqi opposition, and asked him to comment on this report. He said:

[Begin recording] First of all, I have close ties with all Iraqi opposition figures, the well known and the less well known. I am therefore in a position to emphatically deny any sort of communication between the opposition and the CIA, either to form a collective command or for any other purpose. The news is simply a fabrication, if not pure hallucination by some know-it-all. The news should be seen as an indictment of the Iraqi people and an insult to their ability to decide their own future.

Second, the Iraqi people and opposition are sick and tired of such (unscrupulous) statements being published in Western media. The Western media keeps citing official and non-official sources on U.S. intentions to depose Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi people and opposition will not take such statements seriously. The Iraqi people and opposition will not forget (the reasons for) the Iraqi uprising against the tyrant in March, which resulted in over 30,000 martyrs. The opposition was in control of 14 of Iraq's 18 governorates, but the uprising failed. The major reason for its failure was the green light Saddam was given to smash the uprising. Saddam used helicopters and tanks to quell the uprising. Where was the CIA then?

Third and last, we hope that the free Arab press will examine such unreliable news carefully before reporting it, as its publication could cause irreparable damage. [end recording]

[Paris AFP in English at 1158 GMT on 10 February transmits a report by Jean-Eudes Barbier, datelined Manama, that says: "U.S. intelligence agents and Iraqi opposition figures are working in tandem to overthrow President Saddam Husayn and to replace him with a broad-based collective leadership, Gulf diplomats reported Monday.

"The Central Intelligence Agency, whose director Robert Gates is currently in the Middle East, has approached several members of the opposition 'who are little known to the public and who have never been compromised' by links to the government, said one diplomat.

"The aim is to provoke the fall of Husayn and to replace him by a group of personalities representing the interests of Sunni and Shiite Muslims, as well as those of Kurds and Christians. 'Most of them (approached by the CIA) left Iraq a long time ago, in many cases before the accession to power of Saddam Husayn in 1979, and have maintained wide-ranging connections in the Arab world,' explained one diplomat. 'There is a clear desire to establish a collegial leadership in Baghdad, as there is no consensus on one individual capable of taking control.'"

Delegate Addresses Geneva Human Rights Conference

JN0702210692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT
7 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Geneva, 7 Feb (INA)—Iraq has denounced attempts to use food and water security as a means of applying political pressure on the Iraqi people, and deemed these efforts a grave precedent in international relations that runs counter to the aims and principles of human rights. This came in a speech delivered by Muhammad al-Duri, Iraq's chief delegate to the 48th session of the Human Rights Commission, which opened its proceedings on 30 December, and which is scheduled to continue until 7 March 1992.

He said the allied nations on the UN Security Council, particularly the United States, Britain, and France, were bent on maintaining the sanctions against Iraq, despite the removal of the reasons that prompted them. He stated that hampering the Sanctions Committee's passage of a resolution that would allow exports of food and medicine to Iraq amounts to a genocide of the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Quayle Exhortations Ridiculed

JN1102162392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1426 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Geneva, 11 Feb (INA)—Iraq has refuted the allegations made against it by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle before the Human Rights Commission in Geneva yesterday. It was noted that these allegations fall within the context of the U.S. election campaign.

Dr. Muhammad al-Duri, head of the Iraqi delegation to the 48th session of the Human Rights Commission, ridiculed the U.S. vice president's call for respecting human rights and for pursuing democracy in Iraq. He said: This is a laughable matter for the Iraqi people, having suffered severely and continuing to suffer as a result of the U.S. crimes against them.

An INA correspondent in Geneva reported that in his response to U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's speech, the Iraqi chief delegate affirmed that U.S. practices

against the Iraqi people and many peoples of the world have exposed the irrelevance of U.S. allegations and slogans claiming that it is the leader of the free world and the protector of human rights.

He quoted an article by U.S. writer Noam Chomsky published in the New York GUARDIAN, in which he said that the United States supports the most ruthless tyrants so long as they go along with its terms. However, the United States conspires to topple any democrat in the Third World if he does not serve their interests.

The Iraqi chief delegate condemned the declared U.S. policy of interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and the many peoples of the world. This policy comes through daily statements by U.S. President George Bush, within the framework of his election campaign, in which he calls for changing the political system in Iraq, maintaining the economic blockade, and prolonging the policy of starvation.

The head of the Iraqi delegation refuted what Quayle said in his speech about the war of aggression on Iraq, and said the U.S. military aggression on Iraq was not targeting Kuwait and was not out of love for human rights or democracy, but was to control Middle East oil.

In that respect, he referred to what the U.S. President said during his election campaign—that the war has secured cheap oil prices for the American consumer in the foreseeable future—and what he said when the war broke out—that the United States was fighting for material interests.

The head of the Iraqi delegation asked: In the face of these ugly crimes of control, domination, murder, and destruction practiced by the United States against the Iraqi people, who are sticking to their political regime, doesn't that reflect a return to the past by the United States, which has reached the peak of its strength after the collapse of the Soviet Union as the opposing superpower?

He went on to ask: Doesn't that mean that the mentality that is still ruling the United States, which was demonstrated by cowboy movies, has returned today, or that it has been dominant from the beginning?

The head of the Iraqi delegation exposed the paradox between what Quayle said in his speech about defending the democratic principles of human rights and what the United States has been doing from its creation until today—flagrantly violating these principles and all international norms and laws. He said everybody knows about the policy of the big stick that has been pursued by the United States for a long time. He referred to what Hubert Siliby Geddnyder [name as received] said in an article published by the French newspaper LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, that the United States was established on repression, treason, and mass murder.

Finance Minister on Public Debt, Taxes

JN0702203792 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
3 Feb 92 p 4

["First part" of an interview with Finance Minister Majid 'Abd Ja'far by 'Abbas al-Janabi and 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Banna'; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [BABIL] Our first question concerns the public debt. It is known that the country has been at war since 1980, and that it has been under an economic blockade since August 1990. Under these circumstances, the state was compelled to finance a significant portion of public expenditures and the needs of the national economy, in terms of imported commodities and foreign services, through foreign and domestic borrowing. It must be noted, however, that the average citizen does not know the volume of foreign and domestic debt. This is despite the fact that current and future generations of our people are involved and concerned with this issue, given that these debts will be paid with public revenues. It should be noted, however, that the people's knowledge of some details will effectively contribute to their thought and behavior in a manner that serves the state's objective of paying or lifting these burdens in the best way possible. It is also worth noting that funds borrowed abroad have been obtained from foreign quarters which have full details about these debts. These details are published by some concerned foreign institutions. What is your approach to this issue?

[Ja'far] In general, public debt is either foreign or domestic. In light of the circumstances of the war with Iran and during Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle [the war with Iran], we were compelled to borrow from both foreign and domestic sources. With respect to domestic debts, they have been obtained through treasury bills. Many states resort to domestic borrowing. Domestic debts are documented at our bank and with all concerned quarters.

As for foreign borrowing, our foreign debts are known and documented. It has been declared that we cannot honor our obligations toward these debts now, before the economic blockade is lifted. We are not net debtors; the outside world is also indebted to us. When the blockade is removed, we will hold negotiations on just how to honor our obligations and how the world will pay its debts to us.

Regarding the size and indications of this indebtedness, they are available to the concerned government quarters, but they are not made public for reasons of national security.

[BABIL] Dealing with the other side of the issue, whether we like it or not, the citizen is subjected to an onslaught of foreign media, and he is bound to know the volume of public debt. Credible dealing with the citizen necessitates that such an issue be dealt with so that we can protect and safeguard the citizen. The debt is a tangible fact. In this vein, do you consider the failure to mention

the volume of debt an effective security measure? Or is it a shaky one, given the fact that penetration is there, be it by the directly or indirectly involved media?

[Ja'far] There is a difference between us providing a specific figure and the other side making estimates. Such a specific figure is available to us. Because of the economic blockade, and the onslaught against us and on our national and economic security and its requirements, figures are not made public. This not only applies to the public debt, but also to many other activities, such as national income, national production, and many economic sectors. Although many world statistical agencies publish figures about such activities, we do not provide such figures because of the hard circumstances we are currently experiencing.

[BABIL] Supposing that we have overcome the current stage, will you opt for clarity with the citizen?

[Ja'far] Definitely. Since we are contributors to many international funds—including the IMF, the World Bank, and other financial institutions—we are required to provide as many indications as our country's interests permit. We will have meetings with these parties. These hard circumstances have been imposed on us. We have not created them. They have been created by the 30-state large-scale aggression against us. This has prevented us from providing some indications which may serve hostile quarters. This is the main reason. When these circumstances are over, however, we will not mind providing detailed indications with regard to our economy's main activities. As far as oil-producing states are concerned, Iraq is not the only indebted one, and it has only become indebted because of the wars that have been imposed on it. Two wars have been imposed on us. Even the oil states which have not experienced circumstances similar to ours have become indebted because of the new world order and U.S. policy. Almost all oil states have turned from states with surpluses into indebted states, from Mexico up to the Arab oil states, Venezuela, and others. [passage omitted]

[BABIL] It is known that tax policies have become one of the state's major instruments of achieving a number of important objectives. On the level of finances, an efficient tax policy may provide a source for current public expenditure for the state and society, particularly for health, education, and other services. Just how much does the income tax contribute to the structure of general revenues for purposes of development only?

[Ja'far] Taxes in general—the most important being the income tax and customs fees, as well as indirect fees and taxes—contribute a tiny portion to public expenditures. In 1989, such taxes constituted only 9 percent of total expenditures in the ordinary budget. Taxes were at the same rate over the past few years. [passage omitted]

Views Inflation, Counterfeiting

JN0702205792 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
4 Feb 92 p 4

["Second part" of an interview with Finance Minister Majid 'Abd Ja'far by 'Abbas al-Janabi and 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Banna'; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [BABIL] Let us tackle the issue of inflation, whose rates do not need explanatory figures and indicators, because everybody already knows them. Most decisions and measures have increased prices and the inflation rate, although the economic blockade is the main reason for inflation. Other reasons include the disparity of salaries. For example, some people's salaries exceed 3,000 dinars. Are there ways or measures to absorb such increases in some people's salaries?

[Ja'far] Inflation is caused by a price increase and a drop in a monetary unit's value. Consequently, the real purchasing power of income weakens. Inflation is attributed to an imbalance in the supply and demand equation. When supply is low and demand is high, prices go up. Sometimes, when supply is low and demand is normal, a gap is created between supply and demand. This is what happened to us as a result of the economic blockade. Goods come to the local market from two sources: The first is through imports, which provided a very large proportion of the goods that fed our local market. The other source is local production. Imports stopped because of the economic blockade, and local production was greatly affected by the 30-state alliance's destruction of Iraq's infrastructure; including projects, factories, farms, and all the country's production tools. All the main sectors in our economy have been reconstructed, but the problem is that some of these factories and projects require imported, rather than locally produced, parts. So, our local production capacity is not the same as it was before the 30-state aggression. As a result, there was an imbalance in the sources feeding the local market. The supply is now low, at least by economic standards, but demand is high. Even if demand had remained at previous levels, the gap between supply and demand would still exist. This gap has created a remarkable increase in prices. [passage omitted]

[BABIL] Let us now turn to the issue of counterfeit currency, a preoccupation of the man on the street. Counterfeit currency, as an element of the effort to cripple Iraq's economy, must be seen in the context of the direct aggression and the chapter of treachery and treason. What are the dimensions of this drive or unjust offensive, in terms of the counterfeit banknotes?

[Ja'far] There are hostile forces behind the counterfeit banknotes. Some people have entered the country and printed banknotes in hopes of channeling them into general circulation. Initially, they had a noticeable effect. Competent authorities began combating the forged banknotes, making considerable efforts toward smashing the operation. We hope to defeat the operation in good

time by seeking out such banknotes and their authors, and improving the quality of the printing process. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker Meets Azerbaijani Delegation

JN0902151992 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT
9 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 9, INA—Speaker of the National Assembly of Iraq Sa'di Mahdi Salih received today the member of the Azerbaijani Parliament, the chairwomen of Azerbaijani Women Federation and the delegation accompanying her.

Speaker of the Assembly reviewed during the meeting volume of the destruction inflicted on Iraq because of the 30-state aggression and sufferings of the people of Iraq as a result of the economic blockade continuation imposed on Iraqi children, women and the elderly and what it has resulted of severe shortage in food and medicine.

He affirmed the importance of consolidating joint cooperation between the two friendly peoples of Iraq and Azerbaijan in a manner serving interest of the two Moslem countries and enhancing joint struggle to defeat imperialist and colonialist plots.

The Azerbaijani official hailed the struggling stand of the Iraqi people and its leadership in confronting with the U.S.-led aggression and its sinister objectives.

Culture Minister Receives Azerbaijanis

JN0902191492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT
9 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—Hamid Yusuf Ham-madi, minister of culture and information, today met with Professor Zamfira Ferdifa Nadrofini, chairwoman of the Azerbaijani Women's Federation [name and title as received], and the media team accompanying her.

During the meeting, the minister praised the feelings which the Azerbaijani people have for the people and leadership of Iraq; feelings which were intensified during the U.S.-imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq.

He said the Iraqi people have the same feelings for the Azerbaijani people, who are linked to Iraq by deep ties of history, culture, tradition, and faith. He added that these ties are particularly important given the current international circumstances, referred to as the "new world order" by the United States, which, in fact, is a new colonialist order that seeks to take the world back to the pre-World War II age and to the law of the jungle, in an attempt to plunder the peoples' wealth and interfere in their internal affairs. [passage omitted]

Writer Backs Barzan al-Tikriti on Fall of USSR

JN0702131992 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
2 Feb 91 p 3

[Article by Nazim Hamzah 'Alwan al-Juburi: "About the Reasons for the Soviet Collapse"]

[Text] Distance failed to hinder intellectual and spiritual communication with Mr. Barzan al-Tikriti through the intelligent arguments he made in his study about the Soviet Union.

The vital views of Mr. al-Tikriti's study on some of the reasons behind the collapse of the Soviet Union, as appeared in BABIL, could not have passed without thorough meditation. He discusses an experience that is still fresh—one that will continue to be debated by generations to come. It is just like the fall of the Roman Empire, which our generation is still discussing. When we approach this subject, we have to consider some vital issues: Did the problem lie in the essence of the Soviet experience, I mean in the very heart of the Marxist theory on which the experience of Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, was based? Did it lie in the application of the theory? Or did the problem lie in the pressure applied by foreign forces to dismantle the Soviet structure?

I believe the problem lies in the combination of all these factors. I will discuss each one separately:

First, the theoretical defect: Mr. al-Tikriti was right when he emphasized that the Marxist theory's disregard of the spiritual and moral aspects of the Soviet man was the main reason for creating a distorted model of the human being, more of a machine than of a man.

When the Soviet experience ignored man's intrinsic right to ownership, and when it bypassed man's freedom and religious beliefs, man was cut off from his spiritual roots. Instilling Marxist values in this man was like farming in a tough land and climate: The seeds may blossom, but will always be ready to wither. Marxism and its values withered inside the Soviet man when he stood for hours in long lines to obtain bread, sugar, or even vodka. Marxist values withered when Soviet citizen attended party meetings, or meetings for the factory management, without being able to say "no" to the mistakes he sees in the management of his establishment or party organization. On many occasions, the cost of such a "no" was the confiscation of this person's freedom—that is if they chose to be lenient with him and decided not to exile him to Siberia.

Freedom was a real dream, but beyond reach; it was as far off as Pleiades. The spiritual aspect, which is the central part of the human dualism (ithniyyah), as embodied by religion, God, and worship, was not out of the hand of the government, which removed this part from the human life of its people. God, who is close to his creatures, was not far from the Soviets, but they were taken away from Him.

Distress, perplexity, suspicion, loss, and lack of will and human freedom accumulated gradually inside the Soviet man. When the time came through "perestroyka" or "glasnost," emotions burst out, and everything became clear.

The national affiliation was paralyzed. They had paralyzed it. But the Soviet republics, I mean their citizens, have strong ties with their roots and national affiliation, whether they are Ukrainians, Azeris, Armenians, or Russians. The Baltic republics were the first to rebel nationally; the others then followed. The humanitarian aspects had been aborted, therefore the structure looked strong from outside but was empty inside, and this crisis was a theoretical defect.

Second, the failures in implementation: Let us have a mammoth military arsenal, go ahead in building nuclear power capabilities, and let the Soviet Army be the biggest in the world, but what is next? The economy was the victim and the citizen was the one who was slaughtered, at least from the consumption point of view. One of the ugliest results of the confusion in implementation was the distorted economy, the most prominent defects of which are as follows:

1. A shortage of revenues for financing development.
2. Misdirected priorities by being biased toward military spending when allocating revenues.
3. The interference of the central authority and the burden it brought to the country through administering a huge economy.
4. The growth of the black market, estimated at \$100 to 280 billion.
5. The rise in the party's administrative bureaucracy which obstructed growth.
6. The failure of agricultural policies.
7. Weakness of the technologies employed.
8. The modest productivity levels.

What happened? This led to a psychological collapse for the citizens when they discovered that their ideology did not quench their thirst. What is next?

The attention given to consolidate the structure of Eastern Europe added a serious burden to Soviet revenues. The race in armaments and space, which swallowed up funds allotted for development and the production sector, was not efficient enough to cover this drain on resources, so the economy collapsed, and this was the most prominent defect of the implementation.

Third, external pressures: The massive rivalry between the two superpowers—the Soviet Union and the United States—in the political, press, intelligence, and economic fields. The most prominent features of the external pressures were the following:

1. Launching the policy of economic technological siege against the Soviet Union.
2. Consolidating the media campaign against the Soviet regime and intensifying the efforts to brainwash the Soviet people using all means possible.

3. The intelligence war.
4. Drawing the Soviets to the space race and the huge costs it demanded.
5. Drawing the Soviets to nuclear parity and to the huge costs of nuclear armament.
6. Depriving the Soviet Union of any source of external financing.

The Soviets began to run breathlessly after the Americans, at a time when their production sector was not efficient and the Soviet administration had not adapted itself to confront the challenge.

These were some of the reasons that made us watch, with sorrow and pain, the removal of the red Soviet flag from the Kremlin's domes, thus declaring the end of a nation which for 75 years served as a protector of the forces of freedom in the world and of the persecuted peoples, even though it became negligent in performing this role and allied itself with imperialism against Iraq during the 30-country aggression. What are the indications? What are the conclusions?

We can draw the following important conclusions from the Soviet experience:

1. Nationalism remains a decisive factor in the formation of a nation and in the cohesion of the social structure. This reinforces the soundness of the Ba'thist course that our party has adopted in formulating the relationship between mankind's development and the nationalist dimension.
2. Democracy is a sine qua non in human societies, as is a prerequisite for the interaction of opinions contributing to the building of civilization. Perhaps the Ba'thist ideology had been fully aware of the relationship between the individual's freedom and his self-liberation and the development of freedom when it set freedom as one of the three main pillars of the party.
3. The end of the Soviet Union does not mean the end of socialism. Socialism will remain a course for building. Even after a while, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe might revert and modify their course and readopt the socialist course.
4. One cannot exclude religion from human life and the nation. This was affirmed by leader President Saddam Husayn when he said: We cannot adopt an unbiased stand on religion and atheism.
5. The importance of the fair distribution of revenues between development and security should not ignore human requirements, even if they were luxuries. One cannot consolidate military security at the expense of economic security by depriving citizens from some of their basic needs.
6. The exit of the Soviet Union from the arena of direct conflict with the United States has reinforced U.S.

hegemony over the world, and has led to the establishment of an international order that is controlled solely by the United States.

7. There must be an ideology reformulation on the domestic level, in line with the new developments on the international scene in a manner that will not bring about isolation from the vital tributaries of mankind, particularly the people of the Third World.

Thus, the Soviet experience will remain a historical legacy that the people of this world will review with respect, but also with regret over an experience that could have remained a shield for protecting the Third World.

Baghdad Regulates Hotels, Night Clubs

JN0502191192 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
2 Feb 92 p 4

[By 'Ali Na'as]

[Text] The tourism directorate of Baghdad municipality has issued new rules and directives to regulate the activity of and define locations for tourist facilities and shops selling alcohol in Baghdad Governorate.

This was stated to AL-THAWRAH by Ma'mun Rashid 'Akif al-Hurmuzi, director of the Tourism Department of Baghdad municipality. He said that the new rules for licensing will require the approval of the National Assembly and the area's municipal unit. It will also consider the location and the kind of building and services to be granted.

He added that inspection committees launched a comprehensive campaign to classify all hotels and restaurants, many of which were downgraded because of their low level of tourist services and cadres. The results of the new classifications will be published soon. Joint committees are being set up by Baghdad municipality, Baghdad Governorate, the Baghdad central popular council, the tourist authority, and the hotel and restaurant association to supervise and control tourist facilities and nightclubs and to deal with the phenomenon of the spread of shops selling and offering alcohol. In Baghdad there are 306 hotels and 1,132 restaurants of different classes, 412 markets for selling alcohol, and 346 cinemas, nightclubs, cafes, and cafeterias.

He pointed out that licenses would be granted or renewed for restaurants offering alcohol within certain streets and on the condition that these restaurants be first class or above. No new cafes or nightclubs will be licensed and no restaurants, except four-star or five-star ones, will be allowed to organize song concerts. These restaurants will be allowed to give musical concerts. It has been noticed that a large number of restaurants have turned into nightclubs in which weekly song and dance concerts are given.

Arrestees in Egypt Work for Libyan Intelligence
TA1202101892 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 12 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] The mystery of Faris Subhi Misrati, the Israeli Arab who was arrested in Egypt with his daughter and son on charges that he was a Mosad agent spying for Israel, has been solved.

It has now emerged that the three family members were actually being run by Libya's intelligence apparatus and had been recruited by a Libyan intelligence agent posing as an agent of the Israeli Mosad.

Apparently, the three were certain they were working for the Mosad, when they were actually working for Libyan intelligence. It seems the Libyans contacted Misrati in Europe, after they followed him and realized that he was in dire economic straits and had no permanent address in Israel.

This version explains why Misrati told his Egyptian interrogators that he had been working for the Mosad.

[A pool report on page 3 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 12 February adds: "Officials in Jerusalem are pleased with the public denial issued by the Egyptian foreign minister in his meeting with the Israeli ambassador in Cairo. According to official sources in Jerusalem, the denial shows that the Egyptians want to put an end to the affair, at least insofar as Israel is concerned. In a meeting of the Army's General Staff yesterday, the chief of intelligence stated that Israel is not in any way involved in the affair and that the suspects had not been spying for it."]

Shin Bet Chief Reports on Death of Detainee
TA1102154692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The Shin Bet chief has said that the attack on his organization following the death of Mustafa al-Akkawi in the Hebron jail was enormously damaging to the Shin Bet. He asserted that the attacks were unjustified, and said that even after it became obvious that the death had been caused by heart failure, none of the critics came forth to admit their mistake. The Shin Bet chief made these remarks in his semiannual review at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He stressed that he had instructed his staffers to assist in the investigation of al-Akkawi's death by placing all Shin Bet's findings at the disposal of the police.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen adds that the chief's review at the committee included the revelation that al-Akkawi had been recruited to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine nine years ago and was trained in Lebanon. When detained last month,

he reported no illness whatsoever. On 3 February, said the Shin Bet chief, when the detainee was brought to court, he complained of having been beaten. On the same night, he was moved to the prison clinic after saying he was not feeling well. The physician who examined him found nothing wrong.

Baraq Comments on Syrian Army Buildup, POW's
TA1102172792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The Syrians realize Israel's superiority, and that is one of the reasons that brought them to the negotiating table. It is important to maintain that superiority, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, stated in Haifa today. Qobi Mandel, our correspondent in Haifa, reports:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] The chief of staff arrived at Rambam Hospital in Haifa earlier this evening to call on Second Lieutenant Shay Levinstein, one of the two soldiers wounded in a clash with terrorists last Saturday in southern Lebanon, and to commend his Giv'ati Brigade unit.

On another issue, the chief of staff was asked about the continued Syrian Army buildup.

[Baraq] Our current ability vis-a-vis Syria is very good. In my opinion, the Syrians know this. Their realization of Israel's relative strength—actually, its military superiority—is one of the reasons—other than the international context—for their willingness to enter direct negotiations with us without any preconditions. It is very important to maintain that strength. I cannot explain why Syria continues to build up its army. We are talking about facts, not speculations. Indeed, Syria continues to build up its army. [end recording]

[In a recording included in a similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 11 February, Chief of Staff Baraq says: "I think the issue of bringing back the POW's and MIA's should be handled far from the public eye in order to guarantee the highest chances of success. At this stage, I cannot report any new developments on the matter. Far-reaching changes should not be expected in the near future."]

Knesset To Take Seven-Month Recess

TA1102193492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1800 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Israel's parliament is to go into recess for seven months starting 18 March. The decision was taken by the Knesset House Committee, despite the opposition of Labor and Citizens Rights Movement members, who claimed that such a long recess was unprecedented for a democratic regime.

The Knesset will reconvene after the June general election at the beginning of October.

Abu-Jabir: 'Israel Must Prove It Is Serious'
 NC1002153392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1406 GMT
 10 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has emphasized that Israel must prove it is serious about the peace process by discontinuing its practice of demolishing houses, evicting Palestinians, and building settlements in the occupied territories.

In an interview with the Cairo paper AL-MASA' today, Abu-Jabir said that under the new world order, the international community must bear its (?responsibility) and regard what happens on the ground in the Middle East seriously.

He asked: Will the world let Israel continue its current practices forever? Is it wise to allow Israel alone to obtain and manufacture nuclear weapons in violation of all international conventions?

Replying to a question on the multilateral Middle East peace talks held recently in Moscow, and whether Jordan is willing to cooperate with Israel in water, environment, and development issues, he said that the talk about cooperation and normal relations among the region's countries must be preceded by firm and decisive steps in the Middle East peace process. He added that Israel must also withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, stop evicting Palestinians and recognize their inalienable legitimate rights, live in peace with itself and its neighbors, and cooperate in disarmament. After all this has been done, he remarked, we might be able at some point in the future to cooperate with Israel in water, development, and environment issues.

Commenting on Jordan's participation in the recent Moscow multilateral negotiations, he said that what encouraged Jordan to take part in these negotiations, despite the lack of progress in the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, was the various international parties' commitment to a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on international legitimacy and implementation of Security Council resolutions.

He noted his regret that important Arab parties did not participate in these negotiations, though he understands their wish to stay away until tangible progress has been made in the bilateral talks. He also said the multilateral talks must be viewed as support for the bilateral talks rather than an alternative to them.

Regarding the Palestinian decision not to participate in the Moscow multilateral talks with a delegation exclusively from inside the occupied territories, Abu-Jabir said that the Palestinians undoubtedly discussed and examined the matter very carefully before making this decision and found that it would be better to preserve their right to participate in the next phases of the peace process with a complete

delegation consisting of Palestinians from inside and outside the territories, and from Jerusalem, instead of participating in the Moscow negotiations with Palestinians only from inside the territories.

Columnist Views Gates Tour, Iraqi 'Spirit'
 JN1102163492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
 9 Feb 92 p 26

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "To the CIA Director"]

[Text] Perhaps it is appropriate to volunteer this "report" to the CIA director, who is currently touring some Arab capitals to study and discuss various facts pertaining to the current situation in Iraq, the sources of the political regime's power there, and ways to topple it. This is particularly true following the collapse of the Israeli, American, British, and "Arab" theories, which had predicted that Saddam Husayn would fall within "weeks or probably days," just as "a ripe fruit falls," in the wake of the failure of the largest military and psychological aggression launched by Western alliance forces since the Normandy landing, ending Nazi German power in the last year of World War II!!

We volunteer this report. This time we will believe the CIA director more than his Arab "allies," not because we are more concerned with making his mission a success, but because we feel a sense of disgrace about everything that is happening.

We are Arabs; the capitals that suffer his presence are Arab; the regime against which he is conspiring is Arab; and the wealth he is plundering is Arab. Moreover, the humiliation, scorn, starvation, and demoralization Washington is imposing on our nation would not have been possible had Washington not found the nation's borders open, its wealth easy to plunder, and its armies cooperative!!

We volunteer the following: The political regime in Iraq is stronger than many people imagine. We invite the CIA director to read the REUTER report of the day before yesterday on the situation in Iraq. The propaganda machine is used to tell the Iraqis that they are being besieged, killed, and starved, and that their advancement and culture is being destroyed not by U.S. warplanes, missiles, and artillery, but by Saddam Husayn.

The propaganda machine has failed. REUTER says that the Iraqi people in Baghdad, as well as those in the north and south, are convinced that George Bush is responsible, and that tens of thousands of Iraqi children are dying because George Bush deprives them of medicine and milk!!

The Iraqi response in the past two days to the recent criminal Security Council resolution is an indication of something that is understood by Washington and its allies. The Iraqis are not willing to negotiate with the United Nations on their oil or their sovereignty. They

are not willing to permit CIA agents, who come under the name of the United Nations, to inspect them in their homeland. This Iraqi response is an indication that the Iraqi regime has caught its breath, and that it is now stronger!!

The CIA director's tour in the region has nothing to do with toppling the Iraqi regime. There is now fear for George Bush and his presidential campaign. Perhaps THE NEW YORK TIMES did not conceal this fear of the U.S. President with regard to Saddam Husayn's movements, and their impact on his status in the elections.

Arrivals from Baghdad speak about a "new Iraqi national spirit" that is now growing one year after the aggression and one and a half years after the economic-political-financial embargo was imposed. Perhaps this spirit is what gives power to the Iraqi political regime. The alternative—known to all Iraqis—is chaos, sectarian and racial conflict supported by foreign forces, military dictatorship, and submission. Who among the Iraqis wants this end to his homeland?!

Gates, 'Rambo' Compared

JN1202120892 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
12 Feb 92 p 18

["Seven Days" column by Ibrahim al-'Absi: "Between Rambo and Robert Gates"]

[Text] News reports early this week said that CIA Director Robert Gates had arrived in the Middle East to coordinate with some capitals of the region on efforts to topple the "Iraqi regime."

At first, I did not believe the reports and did not take them seriously, because "fabrication" and production of reports is very similar to what takes place in U.S. films, particularly in adventure and suspense movies. Before a film is shown, the great advertising machine, which is financed with millions of dollars, begins speaking about the "great and wonderful film" in which the "American hero" destroys one of the Third World armies.

In the advertisement, this hero appears holding a machine-gun, wearing a bullet-proof vest, and with thick, muscular arms. He is shown leaping through the streets and over rooftops and opening fire, with soldiers falling like locusts in front of him, just like the American-Zionist star Sylvester Stallone does in the Rambo movies.

The difference between Rambo and Gates is that Rambo appears in the media and advertisements after the film is completed and ready to be shown. Gates, meanwhile, has started his "film" with a gigantic media clamor before the "film's" dirty scenario has begun.

We ask: How would Robert Gates be able to overthrow the "Iraqi regime?" Is he going to storm Baghdad, Rambo-style, carrying a machine-gun and wearing a

bullet-proof vest, and then start shooting at the Iraqi Army and people until they surrender to him?

Is he going to enter Baghdad at night with a group of supernumeraries, spies, and Mafia-style agents, and then storm the Presidential Palace and arrest President Saddam Husayn?

Certainly Gates will not do such a thing, because Iraq is not a Hollywood studio; Baghdad is not a film set or a cartoon building; and the Iraqi people, Army, and leadership are not mere supernumeraries whom Gates can direct by "remote control."

In order to do the man justice, perhaps he is not thinking this way. Had he been thinking this way he would not have come to the region, since he is the one who can plot one conspiracy after another against Iraq and against the people that do not move in the American orbit, regardless of the success or failure of these conspiracies.

The question remains: Why has Gates come to the region? What is the aim of this visit and all this clamor?

It seems to me that the U.S. Administration has started to lose its nerve and self-control after the failure of its siege against Iraq—the siege which it thought would lead to the surrender of the Iraqi leadership and people. The U.S. Administration was surprised by the legendary Iraqi steadfastness, which came as a severe shock for it, so it began trying new methods. The dispatch of Robert Gates to the region is not the first and will not be the last of these methods. The aim is to fuel discord anew in Iraq and involve some simple and short-sighted people in this discord, who view the American imperialism and U.S. intelligence as earthly gods who are able to do everything.

We will not remind the world that this action is a type of terrorism, and interference in the internal affairs of peoples and countries, because the United States does not give much weight to this world and does not hesitate to interfere in the affairs of its peoples.

We will only remind that the criminal war launched by the United States and its allies against Iraq has not managed to topple the "Iraqi regime" nor undermine its leadership and people.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Policy

JN0902100792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Feb 92 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Climbers on the Skulls of Children!"]

[Text] President George Bush's statements against President Saddam Husayn express the U.S. President's personal hatred for the Iraqi president and the grudge that is embedded in President Bush's heart against President Saddam. However, Washington translated the real magnitude of its enmity and hatred of Iraq in the coalition it mounted against Iraq and in the barbaric attack against the Iraqi people, their accomplishments, their shelters,

universities, mosques, churches, and antiquities. Indeed, this hatred continues to be manifested in the "heroic" siege which the allies are imposing on the milk of Iraqi children and the medicine of sick Iraqis.

These statements can only be understood within the framework of President Bush's reelection campaign. In order to convince the American voter to keep him in the White House for another presidential term, President Bush is trying to impress on this voter his ability to continue slaughtering Iraqis through starvation and disease.

It is strange that while President Bush is proud of the fact that this resolution to slaughter the Iraqi people is a U.S.-UN resolution, this pride does not extend to another U.S.-UN resolution on the issue of Palestine, and the legitimate rights that the Israeli occupation authorities, backed by the United States, have usurped from the Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian people as well as from all the people who dream of a secure, just, and peaceful world.

In their race to win votes, Washington, London, and Paris continue their unjust siege against the Iraqi children and sick people, so that the current presidents (Bush, Mitterrand, and Major) would not fall and so that their parties would not be defeated. The only way to win votes is to reemphasize the barbarity in dealing with the Iraqi people and to demonstrate the same barbarity against the Libyan people.

Individual terrorism, from which we have all suffered, has completely receded. Group terrorism for which people have paid a prohibitive price no longer exists. But the most racial, the most barbaric, and the most immoral terrorism that is hostile to ethics and values is that of the new world order, which dismantles nations, strikes at national unity, imposes sieges on others, and fabricates economic and political crises here and there in our world. It is the kind of terrorism which extends its claws and fangs toward all the people who refuse to follow it, and toward every country which does not give its wealth to its enemies. Therefore, the Western leaders who fail to seek solutions to their economic crisis believe that by merely showing their people how harsh they can be to others will secure them success.

We do not know what credit any world leader or even a village leader will get by filling his cup with the blood of others, and by rejoicing over the death of the children of others. This being the case, we wonder why then does the world continue to talk about Hitler, Hulegu [grandson of Genghis Khan], or the like with complete hatred and contempt if greatness, in the understanding of the new world order, is to kill as many children as possible, let many sick people die, and allow planes and missiles to chase people inside their schools, shelters, and even inside their places of worship?

Editorial Discusses 'Misdirected Arab Aid'

JN0902090992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
9 Feb 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Aid Where it Belongs"]

[Text] In a way it is good to be reminded that the Arab Gulf states have embarked on a impressive aid programme, in the aftermath of the Gulf conflict. Recent reports speak of Arab Gulf governments disbursing no less than \$6 billion in development aid in 1990, an amount which was four times the previous year's figure of \$1.5 billion. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates were the biggest donors. The list of beneficiaries, however, sheds more light than ever on the seeds of the Gulf crisis that culminated in Iraq invading and occupying Kuwait and the alignment of Arab and non-Arab countries for or against Iraq during the military, political and economic actions against it.

For example, on top of the list of Arab aid recipients for that year alone was Egypt, which received over \$2 billion. Turkey occupied second place followed by Syria. The same Arab Gulf aid beneficiaries are expected to reap even bigger bounties in the wake of the Gulf war in 1991 while others, notably Morocco and Pakistan, are projected to join the bandwagon of aid beneficiaries from the Gulf states in appreciation for their understanding and support during the "Desert Storm" campaign against Iraq.

But that is not all. Recently, the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have formally approved the establishment of a \$10 billion fund to channel development assistance to some of the Arab and non-Arab states whose economies were hit by the Gulf conflict. Jordan of course does not appear on the list of Arab states hurt by the Gulf events in 1991 even though it was the country hardest hit by the crisis after Iraq and Kuwait. Nor will Yemen or the other Arab states which also had reservations about the resort to non-Arab military means to reverse the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

This is indeed a serious issue but not the only one. Another serious issue is, as it had always been, how Arab aid was administered and channelled and on what basis or criteria. In retrospect, had the generous Arab assistance programmes been motivated by the desire to eliminate poverty from the Arab World, the promotion of stability and security on the basis of democracy and human rights and the forging of a genuine Arab common market, then most probably inter-Arab disputes and conflicts of the like of the 1990-1991 Gulf catastrophe might have never occurred.

Specifically speaking, why should Russia, for example, become a major recipient of Arab aid in order to deal with its economic hardships when Sudan, Somalia and scores of other needy Arab countries are kept literally starving? Indeed the list of Arab countries in urgent need

of economic assistance is long, and the way things are developing and shaping up, the list is likely to get longer rather than shorter in the coming years. Not that the poorer Arab states should look for handouts from anybody. Rather they should look for and expect an enlightened, balanced and comprehensive Arab aid programme that stands to uplift them from their depressed economies that make them easy prey for extremism and elevate them to new heights in political, economic and social development. The turmoil in Algeria and elsewhere in the Arab homeland has its roots in underdevelopment and economic problems. Even the root causes for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait can be traced to an insufficiently balanced development in that country that culminated in making ruinous national decisions without the benefit of pluralistic democracy.

In short, the story of misdirected Arab aid that soared in amounts but decreased in impact is indeed long and painful. If only the donor Arab governments would stop for a minute or two to contemplate the true lessons of last year's Gulf tragedy, then and only then, can the generous Arab support for Arab and non-Arab parties begin to have real impact and appreciation.

Saudi Airlines To Resume Amman Service 18 Feb

*JN0902103392 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Feb 92*

[Text] Ahmad Juwaybir, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority, has stated that the Saudi Arabian airline will resume flights to Jordan on 18 February.

Juwaybir welcomed the Saudi airline's decision to resume flights to Jordan, emphasizing the importance of the unique relations which have existed in the sphere of air transport between the two countries since the conclusion of the air transport agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1956.

Juwaybir said that Saudi airlines will resume its operations to Amman with three flights a week, and the first plane, coming from Riyadh, will land at Queen Alia international airport at its regular time at 1330 on Tuesday, 18 February 1992, in addition to the two weekly flights from Jeddah.

Juwaybir explained that Royal Jordanian has operated and continues to operate flights to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in accordance with the flight timetable to Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dhahran.

Buwayz: Fragmented Arab Stance 'Weakened' Position

NC1102180992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Former Prime Minister Amin al-Hafiz stated that the Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs Committee held a meeting today to discuss recent developments in the peace process. He said that Israel has intentionally obstructed the peace process with its early general elections, thus freezing any progress, particularly on the Lebanese issue. He noted that deputies voiced support for the government's decision not to attend the Moscow multilateral negotiations because these talks cover issues that must be postponed until Israeli intentions are better known. The deputies also supported the government's decision not to give an immediate response to the invitation to attend the Middle East bilateral talks on 24 February.

The deputies attending the meeting urged the government to try to obtain further information and reports, especially from the United States, so that it might be able to decide whether a Lebanese delegation will participate in the bilateral talks or postpone its participation until it is clear whether such talks will be useful.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who attended the committee's meeting, commented on the multilateral talks. He said that they are intended to be about implementing peace and in this sense, they complement the bilateral negotiations.

Buwayz pointed out that the fragmented Arab stance and the lack of inter-Arab solidarity weakened the Lebanese and Syrian position. He said it will be difficult to implement any results that the multilateral talks might reach before progress is achieved in the bilateral talks.

Government Will Not Disarm Resistance

NC1202072292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs Committee, which met yesterday, supported the government's cautious stand before responding to the invitation to attend the bilateral talks. The committee chairman, Deputy Amin al-Hafiz, said implementing Resolution 425 could indicate the extent of Israel's credibility in achieving some progress.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz responded to the remarks made by the members of the committee. He announced that the government will not disarm the resistance, because if diplomatic efforts fail, nothing will be left but the resistance. We support holding a dialogue with the resistance and coordinating stands between it and the government. He noted that there is coordination and integration between Lebanon and Syria regarding the Middle East peace negotiations.

'Partial' Israeli Withdrawal Rejected

NC1202064092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz stated that Lebanon is awaiting clarifications from the U.S. Administration and research institutes about the internal situation in Israel, and for the United States to take the appropriate stand regarding the bilateral talks.

He said: If it is proven that these negotiations are useless, we will not attend them. We then will declare our support for postponing them until after the Israeli elections. Buwayz revealed that Washington had proposed a partial Israeli withdrawal from the south, but Lebanon did not agree to it because it wants a total withdrawal under the terms of Resolution 425.

Speaker al-Husayni Discusses al-Ta'if Accord

NC1002202192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, held a news conference today on his visit to the Vatican. He revealed that a plan he had discussed with the pope to solve the crisis in Lebanon later became the al-Ta'if agreement and a Lebanese charter. It is based on three principles: National accord, Lebanese-Syrian relations, and implementation of UN resolutions in the south.

Reviewing the stages for the implementation of this plan, Speaker al-Husayni said that Lebanon and the Lebanese have fulfilled their commitments under the al-Ta'if agreement, and toward Syria and the Arabs. The United States and the international community have not done what is necessary to ensure implementation of the UN resolutions.

Regarding the deployment of the Army in the south, he said that Lebanon cannot agree to anything that will reestablish a link between this issue and the Middle East crisis, or that fails to distinguish between UN Resolution 425 and Resolutions 242 and 338. He noted that the decreased emphasis on implementing Resolution 425 has negatively reflected on Lebanon, because Israel is exerting pressure, carrying out aggressions, and leading a campaign to cast doubt about Lebanon's economic credibility. We are facing a clear attempt by Israel to obstruct a solution to the Middle East crisis and to waste the international community's efforts to find a concrete solution before the U.S. elections.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attacks in South

NC1202063792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Israel has continued its acts of aggression in the south. Occupation forces yesterday shelled the towns of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. REUTER

cited security sources in al-Nabatiyah as saying that shells were falling at the rate of at least one a minute.

The Islamic resistance has declared that, following the violent shelling of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr by occupation forces in Al-Zaffat and 'Alman, the resistance returned fire using appropriate weapons.

Security sources in Tyre said that nine mortar shells were fired from the village of Zawtar toward the occupation forces' positions in 'Alman.

In another development, the same sources said that a Lahd militia member was injured and a vehicle damaged when a land mine exploded near Bra'shit.

The Islamic resistance, which issued a statement claiming responsibility for the operation, said one of its groups detonated an explosive device at noon yesterday as an occupation forces vehicle was passing on the road to Bra'shit. The statement added that the vehicle was destroyed and all personnel in it were killed or wounded.

In a report broadcast by the Israeli radio, Israel admitted the operation but claimed there were no casualties. Israeli helicopters flew over the area following the operation.

Al-Shar' Interviewed in Cyprus on Peace Talks

NC1102071592 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic
6 Feb 92 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Thurayya 'Asi at Larnaca Airport on 4 February following the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers conference]

[Text] ['Asi] What is your evaluation of the multilateral talks held in Moscow 28-29 January and their impact on the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks?

[Al-Shar'] As everyone knows, Syria did not participate in the multilateral talks because our policy was and still is that these talks should not be held before the bilateral talks bear the necessary fruit; namely, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Unless these results are achieved, no one can seriously think about Israel and the Arab states establishing any type of cooperative relations.

['Asi] What impact do you think Syria's boycott of the Moscow talks will have on the bilateral talks, especially because some parties believe the Moscow talks are part of the peace process?

[Al-Shar'] To begin with, the Moscow talks are not an integral part of the peace process; the peace process rests on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. The Moscow talks have no connection whatsoever to these resolutions.

Our impression is that the only results of the Moscow talks were Israeli gains made at the expense of the Arab states. We said this a long time ago. We did not participate in the talks because we did not want to give Israel anything more.

['Asi] Do you believe that the Moscow talks will have an impact on the bilateral talks?

[Al-Shar'] We believe that the more concessions made to Israel, the more intransigent and arrogant it becomes.

['Asi] Israel is still intransigent and refuses to negotiate territory. It still refuses to implement or even discuss UN Security Council resolutions. Despite all of this, during the Moscow talks it achieved certain gains. How will this affect the disunified Arab stand?

[Al-Shar'] According to what I heard from the Arab delegations which attended the Moscow talks, Syria's absence greatly influenced the course of the talks and their failure. Everybody realized that Syria was right not to participate in these talks. We do not, therefore, regret not participating in the Moscow talks.

['Asi] Are you afraid that Syria will be left out in the cold?

[Al-Shar'] This is not the first time that Syria has faced pressure. In fact, I cannot remember a year in which

Syria has not come under pressure. Under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, however, Syria has been able to surmount all obstacles and overcome the pressure.

We have a firm policy on the peace process, and we will adhere to it. At the same time, we are reviewing the means and methods leading to the peace process. We believe that Syria's policy is being met with great understanding on the Arab and international levels.

['Asi] In light of the Arab enthusiasm for the multilateral talks as part of the peace process, do you believe that Syria and Lebanon can form an alliance to stem the course of the peace process?

[Al-Shar'] Following my meetings in Larnaca on the sidelines of the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers conference, especially those I had with the Arab parties which went to Moscow, I am more convinced than ever that the Arab delegations are very disappointed and are seeking Arab coordination to confront Israeli intransigence in the next phase.

['Asi] Will it be possible to reunify the Arab stand? We know that we were coordinating until differences surfaced over participation in the Moscow talks.

[Al-Shar'] This is correct. The Arab parties that participated in the Moscow talks must have learned a lesson after dealing with Israel's intransigence.

['Asi] The Arab-Israeli bilateral talks have stopped with no progress having been made. The Jordanians and the Palestinians will resume talks with Israel at the end of this month. Has a date been set for the resumption of the talks between the Syrian and Israeli delegations?

[Al-Shar'] To date we have no information that a date has been set for the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington.

['Asi] Is the fact that you did not participate in the Moscow talks going to affect setting a date?

[Al-Shar'] Not necessarily.

['Asi] With whom must contacts be made to set the date?

[Al-Shar'] The co-sponsors of the conference, the United States and Russia, must contact the parties concerned to resume the bilateral peace talks.

['Asi] What is your comment on the U.S. "neutral" stand in the peace process?

[Al-Shar'] We are now seriously studying U.S. assurances and reviewing them with the U.S. side, and we are urging it to do whatever is necessary to push the peace process forward. We said a number of times that we did not participate in the Madrid conference because we were convinced that the Israeli stand was positive. [sentence as published] We know that the Israeli Government does not want peace and is not looking for it. It speaks about peace without any content or substance.

Any peace which does not return the occupied territories to their Arab owners cannot be called peace. When we participated in the peace process, we proceeded from the U.S. assurances and U.S. seriousness. These U.S. assurances are now being put to the test.

Paper Seeks 'Deterrent Sanctions' Against Israel

JN0602133192 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT
6 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 6 Feb (SANA)—In today's editorial, entitled "No Peace Without the Aggressor Submitting to International Resolutions," the newspaper TISHRIN notes that the U.S. Administration has called for the resumption of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks in Washington on 24 February. The paper says: Observers do not expect the upcoming round of talks to have any tangible results in view of the intransigence of Shamir's government on the one hand and Israel's preoccupation with the early elections campaign on the other.

TISHRIN adds that the peace talks in Washington, which were met by Israeli rulers' insistence on devouring and Judaizing the occupied territories and by denying the rights of the Palestinian people during the previous two rounds, will meet with the same obstacle in the upcoming talks.

The paper says that in view of the Israeli "noes," which essentially contradict Security Council resolutions, the U.S. peace initiative, and the land-for-peace principle, it is hard to imagine the possibility of achieving any progress in the forthcoming talks unless the United States seriously and decisively intervenes and warns the Israeli aggressor of the need to submit to international resolutions and stop its policy of evasion and procrastination through the imposition of deterrent sanctions by the entire international community.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that the peace process will be in real danger if the United States does not clarify matters quickly and warn the rulers of Israel to yield to the requirements of peace by withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories and stopping settlement building inside them as well as recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination.

Commentary Says Shamir Government 'Hopeless Case'

JN0802162092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Speaking to the U.S. House of Representatives, James Baker cast doubt on Israel's ability to pay back the huge loans it is requesting. For the first time, Baker disclosed that the United States was repaying Israel's debts. The secretary's position followed Zionist moves and pressures on U.S. congressmen to

pass the loan bill as Shamir, Sharon, and other top Israeli government officials were strongly condemning U.S. conditions.

The enemy prime minister announced that the building of settlements will continue throughout the occupied Arab territories, saying that his election platform is based on retaining the alleged land of Israel and establishing greater Israel. As he explained it, Shamir's notion of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza by no means reflects the most fundamental hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people. The Israeli Army will continue its current deployment to guard existing settlements and protect the building of new ones. The Palestinians will be given nothing more than the right to run some services under the vigilant eyes of the occupation authorities, and they will be subject to Zionist laws. In short, the Palestinians will be aliens in their own homeland, and will be treated by the Israelis as aliens who would be better off if they left for neighboring countries.

For his part, Sharon stressed that settlement activity will continue unabated. He rejected U.S. conditions, especially freezing the settlement program, considering this an unethical act on the part of the U.S. Administration. The questions that have never occurred to Sharon were whether the uprooting of the Palestinian people from their land and homes is an ethical act, and whether the use of U.S. loans to destroy the foundations of an entire people is an ethical act. Indeed, Sharon has never thought whether or not bringing millions of Jews from their homelands, abolishing their main cultures and pushing them into aggressive acts against the Arabs, is an ethical act.

Shamir's government is a hopeless case. The Americans, the Europeans, and the whole world for that matter, cannot force it to enter the peace process by employing the language of persuasion, logic, and reason. This government's main preoccupation is to Judaize the occupied Arab territories and plant them with settlements, and terrorize Arab inhabitants to encourage a mass exodus. The chief concern of this government is to establish greater Israel and control the Arab resources, both oil and water, by way of continuous expansion, wars, and acts of aggression.

It is only natural for such serious plans to require huge amounts of money, continuous armament, and great political support. The extremist Zionists believe that they can continue to blackmail the world, especially the United States, to obtain assistance and loans, which later become grants. In effect, they ask the United States to repay their debts. The extremist Zionists, who believe that the United States has to cover for all their crimes and serious violations of international conventions and human rights, have been dealing with the current U.S. Administration on this assumption.

In short, the United States should now realize that Israel, by pursuing a policy of aggression and expansion, is harming the U.S. reputation and interests in the Middle

East and the world. At the same time, Israel wants the United States to continue financing its aggressive and expansionist programs. Israel alone rejected the peace process. The Arabs, on the other hand, earnestly responded to U.S. peace proposals and insisted on Washington as a venue for the talks so that the U.S. Administration, which pledged to act as a driving force behind the peace process, could meet its responsibilities and obligations.

Israel, however, was not satisfied with merely hindering the peace efforts. It has always been seeking to push Washington into its aggressive schemes, whether by blackmailing immense financial assistance or obtaining military support. All efforts by Secretary Baker have failed to bring Shamir's government a single step closer to the peace process.

If the language of persuasion, logic, reason, and even temptation failed to soften the positions of Shamir's government, then the language of deterrent sanctions, and the world community's readiness to face Israel's intransigence appropriately, certainly can force the Israelis to stop their dreams of expansion, occupation, and aggression.

Israel Said 'Extorting' Settlement Funds

JN1202081492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Feb 91

[From the press review]

[Text] The whole world realizes that the Tel Aviv rulers do not give any weight to the will of the international community to achieve a just, comprehensive settlement in the Middle East; in fact, they do not give any weight to the U.S. peace initiative, and announce daily their determination to Judaize Arab territory and establish a greater Israel. They are looking forward, moreover, to extorting the funds of U.S. taxpayers, and to spending these funds on activities that run contrary to the UN Charter and resolutions and human rights.

TISHRIN adds: The truth is that any Israeli commitment not to build new settlements is absolutely worthless if it is not linked to a public commitment to withdraw from the occupied territories, since U.S. loans will, first of all, be used to finance settlement activity. The Americans have had prior experience with Israel in this regard.

TISHRIN concludes: Giving loans to Israel will practically destroy the peace process and push the Middle East toward an inevitable disaster.

U.S. Pledges 'Lacking in Credibility'

JN0802102892 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 8 Feb (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has expressed disappointment with the "new world order" and with the selective U.S. approach toward international legitimacy resolutions.

In an editorial today, contributed by Chief Editor 'Amid Khuli, the newspaper says that the United States is monopolizing the new world order at a time when it continues to pursue an old policy that has nothing to do with peoples' aspirations and wishes and that also runs counter to their struggles. It is as if it were taking revenge on some peoples for their stands toward the United States prior to the birth of this order.

The paper indicates that the United States is making frantic efforts to build the new order in accordance with its world strategy, exploiting the fact that, for the time being, it is the sole superpower, with a view to drawing up and charting this order single-handedly before the big world transformations begin to take shape. It is endeavoring, the paper notes, to settle scores with the Arab nation, which has begun to pay the most exorbitant prices known in its history.

AL-THAWRAH touches on the Security Council summit, saying: This summit has not measured up to the world's ambitions regarding the emerging world order. Besides, the statement issued by this summit allows for conflicting interpretations and explanations that could render it acceptable to whoever reads it.

The paper cautions against that statement's failure to note Israel's rejection of the requirements, basics, and components of peace. Furthermore, the paper maintains, the statement failed to spell out any position toward the peace process.

The paper adds: The pursuit of a selective approach in this regard constitutes an open bias. Also, the pledges made by the United States to the Arabs on the eve of the Gulf crisis have been found to be lacking in credibility since there has been a failure to translate them into acts and deeds on the ground. Moreover, the implementation of international legitimacy on the part of the United States is showing a sharp "logical fallacy" that is like having summer and winter in one place at the same time.

The paper goes on to say: Against the background of this situation, people have the right to express bitter disappointment and to turn their backs on the new order.

The paper wonders: How else can one explain the fact that the Arabs were pushed to the Moscow negotiations without even being given assurances that anything would be achieved at a time when Israeli belligerence and defiance of the world community's values have reached intolerable levels?

Concluding its editorial, the paper holds the United States responsible for the establishment of a credible new world order. At the same time, the paper expresses scant hope that the United States will abandon the calculations it had made prior to the onset of the current world changes.

Commentary Questions U.S. Commitment to Peace

JN1002142192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Since President Bush announced—approximately one year ago—his famous initiative to embark on the peace process in the Middle East; and since we, together with the Arabs, decided to respond to the call for peace on the basis of the American initiative—an initiative founded on the principle of land for peace and a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict in the region in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338—we, together with all the Arabs, have been repeating the following question: Will the United States really act, particularly given the context of its special relationship with Tel Aviv, in a way that serves its announced desire for peace and its concern for consolidating the power of international law by uncovering Israel, and thus become a catalyst for the peace process in all stages of the negotiations? This question has been legitimate as long as Israel has derived its military and economic power from the American breast and as long as Israeli intransigence and adherence to an anti-peace stand derive power from their reliance on the American treasury and arsenal. This makes Washington the only force in the world that is capable of exerting pressure on Israel to abide by international resolutions and to act at the peace conference in a way that will make peace possible and the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution feasible.

We have never asked more of the U.S. Administration than it abide by what it has announced, define its position with regard to the parties to the peace process on the basis of this announced stand, and champion the power of international law over any other international interest if the concept of the new world order is really based on the pillars of justice and on entrenching the bases of security and peace throughout the world.

Throughout all the phases of the peace talks in the past three months, Israel was about to close all doors to peace. In closed rooms, and through its various media and political departments, Israel announced its rejection of the core of the U.S. initiative and of the substance of the texts of the UN resolutions. It stressed its refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, to halt the settlement activities, and to acknowledge any of the Palestinian Arab people's rights. It has gone too far in showing off the language of power and arrogance, to the extent that every observer now wonders if the peace conference was truly convened to achieve a just and comprehensive solution or to register the region in the name of Israel. One wonders why Washington—if it still adheres to the unequivocal principles and texts of its initiative and if it sticks to its firm commitment to what it has declared represents its conviction—does not apply pressure on Israel and force it to accept the international resolutions and withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

The U.S. position, announced by Secretary Baker yesterday, concerning the loan guarantees to Tel Aviv and their connection with the Israeli settlement policy, proves that Washington can do a great deal in this regard if Middle East peace is its true objective. It also proves that the obstacle of Israeli intransigence can be resolved only at the hand of America, which knows how to hurt Israel as much as it knows how to alleviate its pain and illness.

Al-Zu'bi Returns From Visit to Cairo 11 Feb

JN1102162792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus today at the end of an official and amicable five-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the visit he met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and led the Syrian Arab side at the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee meetings. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan**Najibollah Receives UN Envoy, Views Peace Effort**

LD1202111792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The presidential press office reports to BIA that esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with His Excellency [HE] Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy of the UN secretary general.

Firstly, HE Benon Sevan, while mentioning his joint efforts to achieve a political and peaceful solution to the current problems, presented a report to the esteemed president of Afghanistan about the UN efforts to gather Afghans around a negotiating table, his recent talks and meetings with the representatives of the formations, commanders inside the country, various strata of Afghan society, and other involved sides.

He also spoke about the recent speech by HE Butrus Ghali concerning the political solution of Afghanistan to give further impetus to UN efforts. He said that he met with the various Afghan sides and the new developments in the international arena stress that more than at any other time, a good opportunity exists today for a political solution to the Afghanistan issue.

For his part, the esteemed president of Afghanistan mentioned with appreciation the efforts by the United Nations and especially that by HE Benon Sevan to achieve a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan; and presented to the UN envoy the views of the Republic of Afghanistan, taking into account the current realities and developments.

Esteemed Najibollah said: Since the Republic of Afghanistan was the first source to approve the five-point UN plan, it not only also approved the statement made by HE Butrus Ghali as an acceptable and reliable foundation for the issue of Afghanistan, but it is ready for any kind of cooperation in its implementation.

The esteemed president of Afghanistan added that we believe that the key to the solution of the issues lies in the hands of the Afghans themselves. The parties involved and peace-seeking forces who are interested in ending war and in ensuring peace and stability, should, with UN cooperation, and by expressing their readiness to implement the UN plan, and by taking practical steps, make an effort toward the great cause of ending war and ensuring peace with interest and sincerity.

The meeting was attended by Mohammad Eshaq Tokhi, adviser to the president.

Bangladesh**Sources Say Burma Returns 'Looted' Weapons**

BK1102161792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Feb 11 (AFP)—Most of the weapons looted from a Bangladesh border post during an alleged raid in December by Burmese troops have been returned, official sources confirmed Tuesday.

Thirty-two rifles and some ammunition had been returned during a fourth round of border talks Monday at the Burmese frontier town of Mongdu, a security official said on condition of anonymity.

A local official in Cox's Bazar near the border with Burma's insurgency-hit Arakan province said by telephone that the Burmese had returned all the weapons, excepting two, looted from the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Rejupara border post. He gave no further details.

The near seven hours of talks Monday were the fourth round since the December 21 raid on the post that left four people including a BDR soldier dead.

Dhaka blamed Burmese troops for the surprise raid and the incident led to increased tension between the two countries.

Burma officially denied responsibility, but according to reports some officials suggested privately that the intrusion by troops fighting insurgents along the border could have been made by mistake.

Officials in Dhaka gave no comment on the return of the weapons including light machine guns.

But the official BSS NEWS AGENCY late Monday briefly reported the talks between the local BDR commander Major Abdul Khaleque and the Burmese head of the local Lunthin border guards, who was not named.

Diplomatic sources said Dhaka may have refrained from officially announcing the return of the weapons so as not to embarrass Rangoon at a time when it was responding to Bangladesh calls for talks to resolve various problems including a year-long influx of tens of thousands of Rohingya Moslems into Bangladesh.

Monday's talks followed a statement the week before by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman in parliament that Bangladesh would "fight to the last" to protect its interests on the border, although he added negotiations were the best way to resolve problems.

India

Forces To Thwart Fresh JKLF Crossing Bid

BK1202032392 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpts] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces have been directed to thwart any fresh attempt by the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] activists to cross the Line of Control today. Repeated warnings are also being made over the public address system against crossing the Line of Control. This follows the reports that a large number of people have reached Chinari, a short distance away from Chakoti checkpoint in the Pakistan-occupied territory. Elsewhere along the Line of Control, the situation is said to be quiet. There are no reports of any movement of any civilian in the nearby area.

Between 15,000 to 20,000 JKLF activists are reported to have gathered at Chinari near the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir from where they will attempt a crossing this morning. The activists reached Chinari after walking 20-km road from Muzaffarabad on foot and crossed the blockade that had been placed on the route by the police and paramilitary forces.

Two persons are reported to have been killed and 12 others injured when the police resorted to tear gas shelling to disperse 300 JKLF activists who had managed to get to the (Jaskul) Bridge, which is on the Line of Control. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent in Islamabad, Suresh Chopra, reports that today is the crucial day as the activists are swelling around, and about 25,000 persons can be expected to storm the (Jaskul) Bridge this morning in a bid to cross the Line of Control.

The Pakistan Army is reported to have covered the entire area between the Line of Control and Chakoti with barbed wire fencing. Our Islamabad correspondent said that the possibility of serious clashes cannot be ruled out as the activists led by Mr. Amanullah Khan appear determined to violate the Line of Control. The Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, is reported to have canceled all his engagements for today and is air-dashing to Muzaffarabad this morning to chair a high-level meeting to take stock of the rapidly developing situation. [passage omitted]

In Jammu, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the Youth Congress-I, and some other organizations, submitted separate memorandums to the local UN office demanding that Pakistan be declared a terrorist country for encouraging subversives.

Curfew Reimposed on Srinagar

BK1202075692 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpts] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces are keeping a close watch on the emerging situation

across the Line of Control [LOC]. Our correspondent, quoting reports reaching Srinagar, says a large number of Pakistan-based JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] activists have gathered at Chinari and some more are trying to reach Chakoti near the Line of Control. They are likely to attempt a crossing today.

In Srinagar, the day curfew has been resealed in some localities as a precautionary measure. Official sources said there will be no day curfew in the civil lines areas of the city. The situation is said to be under control with no untoward incident reported. [passage omitted]

Our Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra reports that the JKLF supporters have started moving from Chakoti area toward the Line of Control. The Pakistani Government has made elaborate arrangements to prevent crossing of the Line of Control. The whole area around Chakoti and (Jaskul) bridge in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have been covered with barbed wire and trenches have been dug at several places. The Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, who was scheduled to reach Muzaffarabad this morning, is reported to have canceled the trip on account of bad weather.

Our correspondent adds that directors general of the military operations of both India and Pakistan are in constant touch with each other.

Shooting Noted in Grenade Incident

BK1202091092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpt] In Srinagar, the army has been asked to stand by to help the civil authorities to maintain law and order. Most parts of the town have been brought under day curfew again today as a precautionary measure. There were attempts to take out processions at three places but they were foiled. The security forces opened fire in a locality following an incident of hand grenade throwing. No casualty is reported.

Along the line of control, the security forces are keeping a close watch on the emerging situation.

Our correspondent quoting reports reaching Srinagar says some activists of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] tried to break the cordon beyond Chinari and on way to Chakoti in the Pakistan-occupied territory in a bid to reach the line of control. The Pakistan Army is reported to have taken action to prevent the militants from crossing, which resulted in some casualties. Further details are awaited. [passage omitted]

Minister Warns Pakistan Against Nuclear 'Threat'

BK1102130092 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The defense minister has warned that if Pakistan is thinking of carrying out a nuclear threat, India's

reaction would be to make Islamabad bear the burden of suffering for generations. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta today, Mr. Sharad Pawar said Pakistan's designs to keep a constant pressure on our national exchequer by inciting trouble in Kashmir and Punjab is against the spirit of the Simla Agreement. Describing the Pakistani leadership as unpredictable, he said India is ever ready to meet any eventuality.

Akali Dal Endorses Poll Boycott; Leader Held

BK1102131292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] In Punjab, the proposed poll boycott march by six factions of the Akali Dal and the Sikh Student Federation could not be held at Anandpur Saheb today. However, the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee [SGPC], which met at Takht Keshgarh Saheb, passed a resolution endorsing the boycott decision. This was disclosed by the SGPC chief, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra. Mr. Tohra and senior Akali leader Mr. Jagdev Singh Talwandi were taken into custody soon after the meeting.

Promises End to Punjab Bloodshed

BK1102164692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The Akali Dal-Kabul has promised to put an end to the bloodshed in the state [Punjab], grant general amnesty to those now in jails, and restore Chandigarh and other Punjabi-speaking areas to Punjab. The election manifesto released by the party leader, Captain Amrinder Singh, in Chandigarh today demanded total decentralization of power down to the panchayat [village] level and a true federal structure. The party pledged to create more employment opportunities in the state and remunerative prices to the farmers.

Government Supports Bangladesh on Refugee Issue

BK1102164492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] India today assured Bangladesh of its support in finding a peaceful solution to the problem of massive influx of refugees from Myanmar. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen today that New Delhi sympathizes with the difficulties being faced by Dhaka. He hoped that it will be possible to resolve the issue through peaceful negotiations.

Militants Kill 5; Injure 2 in Punjab

BK1202091992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] In Punjab 10 persons have been killed and three injured in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, militants shot dead five bus passengers and injured another two at Mandikalan in

Batinda early this morning. The private bus carrying the ill-fated passengers was on its way from Masa to Moga. Further details are awaited.

Commentary Proposes Asian Economic Community

BK1102124192 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Manohar Lal Chug Commentary: "The Need for Asian Common Market"]

[Text] The first Asian Community Conference which concluded in New Delhi late last month was attended, besides others, an 11-member team from China. The whole exercise was entirely unofficial and the approach basically academic. But it brought about greater contact and cooperation among the peoples of Asia. What emerged at the conference was the need of Asian common market on the lines of European economic market and merits wider attention of the governments of Asian and Pacific countries.

The common things these countries have is poverty and the desire to survive on their own. But almost all of them are being exploited by developed countries who dictate them terms which suit more to developed ones rather than the developing ones. The very fact is that it is the region that has been paying the price of various wars or conflicts, particularly after World War I. Countries of this region could not prosper despite resources. These countries need each other. If some are important as consumer of manufactured goods or as large markets, others may be relevant as suppliers of raw materials and human resources, and still others may be looked upon to provide external economic aid and technological know-how. The economic constraints of interdependence become the most vital factors in international relations.

With the demise of the Soviet Union, we are heading toward a tripolar world: Europe, with countries like France, Germany, and Russia on the one hand, and America on the other, and the third world of Asia, with countries like Japan, China, Israel, and India. However, this may also include countries of the Pacific and Australia. In this changing world scenario, it is high time for countries of Asia to forget, at least for some years, their mutual political problems or differences, to start thinking in the broader Asian idiom, come closer to each other and open a new chapter of mutual help and cooperation with ultimate aim of developing common Asian market and an Asian Economic Community [AEC]. It is only through such a development Asian countries can hope to protect their economic interests and survive in the multicompetitive world. The deliberations with pulls and pushes of the GATT is a pointer of the kind of economic pressures that Asians are to face in the time to come.

As back as 1947, speaking at the first Asian conference, Pandit Nehru had said that the countries of Asia must cease looking toward the West, refuse to be playthings in the hands of others and learn to stand on our own leg and

cooperate with other countries who wish to cooperate with us. Unfortunately, this united Asia has been at loggerheads with itself with Western arms sold to warring Asian nations. As a result, almost every nation of Asia with the exception of Japan has been under deep test. The story does not end here. We have seen, spending large sums for acquiring so-called new technology or on developing their own R&D. Still none of us except Japan and Israel has resources for anything worthwhile that can compete with the West.

If we wish to pool our resources at least in some important areas, we can make significant progress. We have Japan as great economic power with advanced technology and with countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, China, and India, with significant achievements in various areas. Even ASEAN and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] can merge and transform themselves into a common market. Japan, China, and India must take initiative to constitute a large Asian common market and economic community, including therein Asian nations of the erstwhile Soviet Union. Today, almost all the Asian countries, big or small, are competing with each other for receiving Western aid, and that too, on the terms of Western countries, thereby compromising the sensitivity of smaller or less developed countries. In the times to come, European Community would be a greater challenge to the Asian disunited developing and least developed countries, who are already trying under debt, but at the same time, thinking more of it, mostly to pay back the servicing.

The concept of AEC is purely economic cooperation in fields like science, technology, industry, trade research and development, with aim to have mutual benefits through helping each other. It is not a military bloc, or seeking confrontation with Europe or with America. In fact, it helps to form Europe and America can be well institutionalized through AEC. [sentence as heard] That does not need a solution of political problems before setting up AEC. Once AEC starts working, political acrimony would dilute by themselves in the larger interest of people's welfare.

Iran

President Speaks on Revolution Anniversary

LD1102132192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0932 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani marking the 13th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, in Azadi Square in Tehran on 11 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God. Peace and salutations be upon the prophet of God, his scion, and the pious companions. Blessed be these auspicious days of dawn to our nation. I would like to deliver a brief speech to the

esteemed audience to end the ceremonies. I will try to raise some points briefly, as a short list.

Before saying anything, I would like to talk about you, the people, this alert, vigilant, aware, loyal, patient, steadfast, committed, and revolutionary ummah. That you have participated in these ceremonies to this extent says everything, and there is no need for further elaborations. Nothing is more eloquent than this revolutionary presence of yours. Your presence and the deep and enthusiastic feelings that it demonstrates to the world cannot be expressed by any words, any picture, or any pen. No picture could be more expressive than the broadcast of this same scene that we are witnessing here now.

Along the routes of the march, I personally saw—and the latest reports I have just received from the headquarters indicate this—that the march extends from here to the starting point of Sadeqiyeh Square. That is, from the east to Revolution Square, from the south to the Mehrabad junction, the people are jamming the streets, so much so that they cannot get to Azadi Square. In this cold weather, on this damp ground, in the snow and rain of this cold winter, in this weather that has continued in Tehran since last night, the presence of such masses of the people at the rally says everything. It would be sufficient if the media could manage to show this scene to the people of the world. We could then keep silent; they would understand everything.

As I was coming along the route of the march, there were some strange scenes around me. There were fathers and mothers carrying their small children on their shoulders in this cold weather. Sometimes, they were bothered by the pressure of the crowd. These scenes were so moving and made such an impression on my mind and heart that my tears started to flow, beyond my control. O God: What source of light inspires these people, and makes them so loyal to their religion, their revolution, their imam, their leader, and their Koran? This is a question for any observer of today's scene. He might have an answer for it or not. We must raise this question with those who talk of democracy and the value of the people's sovereignty, those who cunningly and dishonestly say that they are in favor of the people's vote, free elections, and the people's presence on the scene. If they were to approach historic events fairly for just one moment, their judgement would change.

Praise be to God, our revolution is 14 [as heard] years old today. This period of 14 years is over half of one generation's lifetime; that is, a generation which either did not exist at the time of the revolution or consisted of children is now gathered in Azadi Square.

During the past 14 years, thanks to the war, thanks to economic sanctions, and thanks to atrocities by the enemies of God and the enemies of Islam, our nation has suffered a great deal and has many bitter memories. This nation has attended the funeral service of a martyr or several martyrs every day, and has continually witnessed

the heartrending sight of youths whose health has been impaired in the course of their jihad and who are now the decorative [as heard] features of our society in their wheelchairs on the streets and at various social events.

Our nation is still witnessing the suffering of a group of its dear ones in the dungeons of Iraq, which is not even prepared to pass the names of these prisoners to their families.

In spite of all this hardship, these people have today appeared on the scene, displaying such joy and enthusiasm. This deserves a response; this deserves a commentary; this is an indictment of the braggart superpowers. Your presence at this year's ceremony is like bringing America and other criminals to trial. If you are in favor of democracy, where else could such a demonstration of democracy be manifested to the whole world? What are these people saying? What do these people want? To what can we ascribe the interest, the devotion, the reason for the unity of these people and their allegiance to their departed imam, to their leader, and their revolution; a devotion so steadfast that it brings the enemies to trial by virtue of such scenes and epics? The only response they receive to this question is their feeling of impotence and shame. This is democracy. This is not the democracy that the Americans delivered in Grenada and Panama, nor that in which the children of Algeria and the Muslims of Algeria are captured, that which praises military rule instead of the people. This is human rights, not that which, with American help, takes place in the dungeons of Israel, where the children of Palestine are tortured, oppressed, and pressured. There are millions of homeless Palestinians around the world whose pure hearts yearn to see the territory of Palestine. That is American human rights, and what you are seeing here is Islamic human rights.

Above all, I have to talk about our people. I know of no greater evidence than that which is manifest here in Tehran's Azadi Square to show the legitimacy of the Islamic system. This Azadi Square is today filled with a massive crowd for the 14th time, and these streets around Azadi Square have once again in the 14th year of the revolution felt the footsteps of the free, pure, Muslim, and devoted revolutionary people, and are proud of receiving them. This is the Islamic revolution of Iran, and praise be to God, this year is different from the previous years.

Of course, our imam is absent and we cannot see him—nevertheless, his luminous face always casts its light on our ceremonies. The survival of the imam's aspirations, thoughts, and wishes and the implementation of his decrees [farman]—these are the things that always establish the imam's place in our midst and link our hearts to him.

What make our nation happier this year, however, are the recent victories and the realization of the revolution's aspirations. Objectives which we pursued in the eight years of our defense are being fulfilled today. Our

enemy is the humiliated aggressor; he has been defeated in world forums. It has been admitted that Iran has a right; those who were not ready to admit in the past that right was on our side are admitting it today. A large number of our prisoners of war have returned to their homes. Islamic Iran and the revolution have found their appropriate status in the region and in the world. To our north, tens of millions of Muslims who were held captive by Marxism have been freed, and several Islamic countries are emerging in the new geopolitical configuration of the world. In Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, Muslim people are more present on the scene than ever and are following our departed imam as well as the commander-in-chief of our forces and our dear leader [Khamene'i].

We feel that the crushing Islam-seeking chants of our nation today will reverberate throughout the world. Within our country, our people are witness to the reconstruction and fruits of the revolution. Universities, schools, colleges, renovations and repairs, industries, roads, rails, the control of waters, mining, attention to deprived regions—and you know that this year, during the Ten Days of Dawn, 1,600 projects were commissioned in deprived villages and hamlets which had neither water nor electricity—and your revolutionary youth and former Basijis are today engaged everywhere and in all parts of the country in serving the needy strata and deprived areas.

We really miss our martyrs in today's ceremonies. We have in our midst the dear families of our martyrs, but our hearts are sad because those heroes of the revolution and our companions are not among us.

We owe all these glorious celebrations, these historic epics, and this splendor and glory to the sacrifices and devotions of our combatants; our Basij; our Guards Corps; Armed Forces; Law Enforcement Forces; and our people, ever present on the scene. We owe them to the patience, resistance, and serenity of their families; and to the dear victims and the lost health of our dear selfless devotees [the disabled] and the tolerance of the prisoners of war and released prisoners of war. It is due to all these that we can today put forward our views, reasons, and demands comfortably. To serve such people and make efforts for such noble and liberated humanity is an honor for anyone. We hope to see a day in the future when we shall have built the country of the imam of the age with the assistance of you, the people, and with the support of this great ummah, in such a way that it will act as a model and example for the other Islamic countries. A day when our Palestine becomes free and when an Islamic government is established in our Afghanistan and when we will hear the liberated Muslims of the world chanting Islam-seeking slogans and slogans on combating tyranny and arrogance.

God's peace and benedictions be upon you.

Tehran Rally Marks Anniversary

LD1102101192 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT
11 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Hundreds of thousands of Tehranis walked towards the sprawling Azadi Square in West Tehran from the early hours of Tuesday to participate in a rally marking the 13th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Many of them had earlier on assembled in front of city mosques and main squares from where they started their march towards Azadi, while thousands of others arrived on the scene aboard buses from every point of the capital.

The ceremony is to continue until mid-day and is expected to be addressed by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The ceremonies mark the climax to the 10-Day Dawn, starting with the anniversary of the arrival in Iran from exile of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni (Feb 1), and the triumph of the Islamic revolution 10 days later.

Seven groups of large choirs singing revolutionary songs and anthems have greeted marchers to the Azadi Square while another larger choir of a symbolic 1357 singers will sing additional songs during ceremonies at Azadi. The Islamic revolution triumphed on February 11 in the calendar year 1357 corresponding to 1979.

Demonstrators already at the Azadi Square as well as those marching towards it are carrying placards and posters including portraits of the father of the Islamic revolution the late Imam Khomeyni, of the present leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and of martyrs of the revolution and the imposed war.

The banners and placards read the sayings of Imam Khomeyni and of Ayatollah Khamene'i, and denounce the United States of America and the Zionist regime.

As usual the anniversary ceremonies in Tehran, and elsewhere in Iran, are markedly charged with feelings against the U.S. and the Zionist regime as the continuing chorus of "Death to the U.S." echoes at the demonstration scene which is also broadcast live on the Iranian radio.

Early Tuesday morning the weather in Tehran was a bit hazy following snow overnight, though a rather clear sky shortly after greeted marchers to the Azadi Square at 08.00 local time.

Similar ceremonies continue in towns and cities everywhere throughout the country, as the nation marks the triumph of people's bare-fisted power over centuries of armed repression.

Khomeyni Addresses Rally

LD1102130192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic
Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Excerpts] At the start of the 14th anniversary [as heard] of the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azadi [Freedom] Square in Tehran today witnessed a great gathering of the revolutionary and resistant masses. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in brief remarks, considered that the solid and unique presence of the people in today's march defended the values articulated by his holiness the imam—may his soul be admitted to paradise—and full obedience to the eminent leader of the revolution.

He said: You patient and revolutionary people, by taking part in the 11 February march, have displayed your firm support and backing for the government and its policies. I will remain like a soldier behind the leader, and like a brother alongside the president. [passage omitted]

Marchers Issue 'Resolution'

LD1102140492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic
Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
103 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Dozens of prominent international theological and political personalities, foreign representatives, and high-ranking officials from our country took part in today's gathering in Tehran's Azadi Square. Schoolchildren sang songs, our brave paratroopers put on a demonstration, and the concluding resolution of the rally was read aloud and endorsed by powerful chants from the crowd.

In the resolution, the marchers stressed their allegiance to the wise and uplifting commands of the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni. God's blessings be upon him, as the inviolable and definite principles of domestic and foreign policy. They said they would not stop until their last drops of blood had been spent, working toward the full realization of his eminence's ideals. They described obedience to rule by a supreme jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] as a duty to the Shari'ah, and obedience to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the only means of salvation for the Islamic ummah.

Elsewhere in the resolution, the marchers expressed their support for Islamic and justice-seeking movements throughout the world, especially the Palestinian intifadah, and for the complete independence of the republics of the former Soviet Union. They also described the United States as the main agent of crime and conspiracy against the world's Muslims and Islamic movements and the main supporter of the aggressive policies of international Zionism.

The marchers also praised the president and the programs of the government and other institutions, expressed support for the programs for the country's socioeconomic reconstruction, and declared their readiness to take part in that sacred jihad wholeheartedly.

They called on the country's cultural organizations to stand up to the many-sided cultural attack by global arrogance, which has the aim of obliterating the ideology of monotheism, by preparing a distinct cultural policy to defend the sanctity of Islamic culture in an extensive manner and with all their strength.

The marchers also described participation in the forthcoming elections as a duty under the Shari'ah, and called on all groups to foil the conspiracies of the sworn enemies of Islam by avoiding factionalism and holding the elections in the healthiest possible manner.

The resolution concluded by praising the martyrs of the Islamic revolution, thanking the dear combatants, selfless devotees [war disabled], freed men [released POW's], and their families, and calling on the government to strive for programs worthy of the position of those dear ones in the society of the Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i Issues Pardons

LD1002135392 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 92*

[Text] On the eve of the Yomallah [day of God] on 11 February, his Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, has pardoned or commuted the sentences of a large group of people sentenced by public and military revolution tribunals whose sentences have been confirmed today. The text of the letter sent by the judiciary head to the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution and his eminence's reply are as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the blessed presence of his Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, may your shadow extend. With salutations and greetings on the blessed occasion of the birth anniversary of the lord of the martyrs and the free, his holiness 'Aba Abdullah al-Husayn, peace be upon him, and his honorable son, the lord of prayer, Imam Zayn al-Abedayn, peace be upon him, and the lord of the age [the hidden imam], may God hasten his noble advent, which also coincide with the blessed ten days of dawn and the Yomallah of 11 February, the anniversary of the glorious Islamic revolution of the people of Iran; and in accordance with the 11th clause of Article 110 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution, I recommend that the sentences of prisoners, whose sentences have been confirmed by revolution, public, and military, tribunals, by 10 February, be subject to an amnesty by your eminence as follows:

1. The sentences of those sentenced to up to one year's imprisonment, regardless of whether they have or have not served part of their sentence; and the sentences of those sentenced to flogging or to fines of up to 1 million rials should be entirely pardoned.

2. The sentences of those sentenced to more than one year's imprisonment should be reduced to one-third of that stipulated in the sentence.

3. The sentences of those sentenced to life imprisonment should be reduced to 15 years imprisonment.

4. The sentences of those sentenced to forced residence or forced absence of residence in a stipulated place; and the sentences of those sentenced to fines of more than 1 million rials, who are in prison because of the inability to pay, should be reduced to one-third.

Clause 1. The implementation of the above amnesties, with the exception of Article 1, should be dependent on the sentenced actually being in prison and currently being in the process of serving the sentence.

Clause 2. If the sentence consists of a combination of a term in prison, the payment of a fine, enforced residence, or enforced absence of residence in a stipulated place, the pardon or the reduction of sentence will be applied to all the parts.

Clause 3. Those sentenced, who have been previously subject to pardons or to reduction of sentences, will have the conditions of this amnesty applied to the remainder of their sentence.

Clause 4. The stated pardons or reductions in sentences will be applied to those sentenced who did not have a private complainant or who have obtained the satisfaction of the complainant.

Clause 5. Those sentenced for the following offenses will not be subject to the stipulated pardons or reduction of sentences:

A. Those sentenced for drug related offenses, who have been sentenced according to the measure approved by the honorable Assembly for the Discernment of What is Best;

B. Those sentenced for armed robbery and highway robbery on roads, streets, and avenues;

C. Those sentenced for offenses relating to economic sabotage, the subject of the law for the punishment of economic saboteurs, approved in the year beginning 21 March 1990;

D. Those sentenced for embezzlement, bribery, fraud, the misappropriation of public property, or for robbing state property, the level of which in all cases exceeds 1 million rials;

E. Those sentenced for crimes against public security and the ruling system and for offenses committed by anti-revolution grouplets unless they have repented and

their repentance has been confirmed by the court which issued the sentence, the public prosecutor who enforced the sentence and the person in charge of the prison;

F. Those who have a record of more than two sentences for the same type of crime;

[Signed] Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary.

The eminent leader's reply to the letter from the judiciary head is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your request is granted and prisoners will be subject to amnesties in accordance with your listed stipulations.

May God grant success to you and the other officials involved.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 9 February 1992

President Speaks on Foreign, Nuclear Policies

LD1002122492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a meeting with heads of foreign countries' political missions in Tehran today, on the threshold of the 13th anniversary of the glorious victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, elaborated on the country's general situation, its domestic and foreign policies, and its successful achievements in economic and social fields and in foreign relations.

Thanking the political representatives of the friendly countries that are trying to promote mutual cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], the president described the level of such relations as satisfactory. He said: Our policies are clear and open and contain no ambiguous points. With regard to our domestic policy, priority has been given to the country's reconstruction, the repair of damage, and the amendment of any shortcomings. In terms of foreign policy, our principle is based on cooperation with all countries wishing to cooperate with us, and with a few exceptions, in principle, we do not see any real obstacles in the path of our relations with other countries.

The president expressed regret that some see Iran as a threat to its neighbors, and stated: We have no claims on any of our neighbors which could cause bitterness; we have left the path open for cooperation with everyone. In terms of international policy, too, our rationale is very clear: We cannot accept that a country in the world should have the right to be superior to others or tell them what to do.

Regarding the new world order, we believe that no one should overstep one's limit. We believe that the United Nations and the Security Council are dutybound to

safeguard all rights and borders. Destinies of all countries should be left to their respective nations.

Regarding the IRI's arms policy, the president said: We will continue to follow our already declared policy which limits our arsenal to defensive purposes. In principle, our policy does not contain the idea of violating another country. We seek nuclear technology for peaceful aims and consider this path to be right for all countries which have the potential to acquire it. We and a number of other countries see ourselves as victims of a series of propaganda insinuations aimed at depriving us of acquiring this knowledge. Currently, representatives of the international atomic energy organization are in Iran, where they are freely conducting the necessary research, after which they will report their findings.

Continuing his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need for balanced cooperation with other countries and said: International cooperation is a reality which should be conducted in fairness, tolerance, and a spirit of cooperation, and not aggression.

The president, then, having expressed his satisfaction with the country's current policies, described them as rational and apt. He said: We have no real problems in transferring from the economic and living predicament of the imposed war period, to the economy of the peace period, and are currently going through this process. Production in our country enjoys good growth, and the economic plan for the reconstruction period which was considered by some as highly ambitious is being carried out successfully, with the urgent parts already implemented. We have more or less no unforeseeable problems in the path of the plan's implementation. Iranian people too, have reconciled with the existing policies, the government, and the system, and, God willing, you will witness the people's devotion tomorrow, 22 Bahman [12 February]. [passage omitted]

IAEA Official on 'Positive' Results of Visit

LD1202120392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Jon Jennekens, under secretary of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], who is in Tehran at the formal invitation of Mr. Amrollahi, the vice president in charge of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its sincere and truthful cooperation with the IAEA. He also said that the results of his meetings with Iranian officials and his inspection of the Islamic Republic's nuclear centers and activities were positive. He stated that the officials had furnished full and satisfactory replies in that field.

The IAEA under secretary also said he was happy with the results of the inspection of the accompanying team, which he said was planned before hand.

According to an IRNA report, Mr. Amrollahi also expressed the hope that the high-ranking IAEA team has learned of the truthfulness and frankness of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also declared that the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has the capability and strength to establish regional nuclear training programs. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to receive any kind of assistance which the IAEA can provide in that regard.

Mr. Amrollahi reiterated the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the completion of the Bushehr nuclear power station. He expressed the hope that through IAEA supervision this project will be completed as soon as possible.

UN Envoy Arrives in Tehran 11 Feb

LD1102230792 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
2030 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Benon Sevan, the representative of the UN secretary-general for Afghanistan, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday evening. In an interview with our correspondent upon his arrival, he expressed his hope that the current talks between Iran, Pakistan, and the United Nations on the problems of Afghanistan would achieve the desired goals. He offered his appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's objective of seeking peace, and also her hospitality for more than three million Afghan refugees. He then stressed that the trend of peace talks on Afghanistan gives much cause for hope.

Pakistan

3,000 Demonstrators 10 Km From Kashmir Line

BK1102132392 *Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English* 1300 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Pakistan authorities have taken all possible steps to persuade and prevent the demonstrators of JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] to stop them from reaching and crossing the Line of Control. Official sources told Radio Pakistan's representative in Islamabad today that the authorities were determined to enforce the decision of the government to prevent any crossing of Line of Control.

Earlier, our representative reported from Muzaffarabad that about 3,000 men passed through the main road of the city on way toward Chakoti for intended crossing of the Line of Control. Latest reports say the demonstrators have reached Garhi Dopatta [10 km from Line of Control].

Reports from Muzaffarabad say that all shops and business centers remained closed as a mark of solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir.

'Thousands' Barred From LOC Crossing

BK1102154792 *Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu* 1500 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Thousands of persons were prevented from crossing the Line of Control in Azad Kashmir today. This was announced by Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan at a news conference in Muzaffarabad this evening. He said about 15,000 people from various parts of Azad Kashmir had assembled at (Chunari) in connection with the attempt to cross the Line of Control, but they were prevented from advancing further.

The Azad Kashmir prime minister said he made an aerial survey of the area by a helicopter from where the people wanted to cross the Line of Control. Police stopped about 200 people who had assembled at (Abbasir) to hold a protest rally. The police took action to disperse people at Madarpur in which a few people were injured.

Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan said that enough troops also were available to prevent the people from moving toward the Line of Control and to meet any eventuality, and the governments of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir had taken appropriate measures to prevent the crossing of the Line of Control and to meet the situation caused by any possible disturbances. However, the situation was prevented from deteriorating further.

He said foreign media representatives had positioned themselves at various places to send their dispatches on the situation, but no untoward incident took place due to the steps taken by the governments of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

Earlier, official sources told Radio Pakistan's representative in Islamabad that the authorities were determined to enforce the Government's decision to prevent any crossing of the Line of Control.

A complete strike was observed in Azad Kashmir to express solidarity with the people in occupied Kashmir. All shops and business centers were closed. Protest demonstrations were staged against the barbaric acts by the occupying forces.

6 Killed, 150 Injured in Clash

BK1202122792 *Hong Kong AFP in English* 1232 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Chinari, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Feb 12 (AFP)—At least six people were killed and 150 injured Wednesday when hundreds of Kashmiri marchers clashed with Pakistani forces as they approached the border with Indian-held Kashmir, police said.

A witness said he saw at least three bodies being removed from the scene. "The situation is tense and clashes continue," he said. But the prime minister of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum, said later the situation was under control.

The clashes came after the marchers—estimated at up to 20,000 by their organisers, the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)—continued to defy all security force attempts to stop them reaching their objective, the Indian side of the border.

Militants took five police hostages and snatched nine rifles during the battle near Chakothei, witnesses said. The dead were two police and four civilians, police said.

Before launching their attack police rolled down boulders from mountain tops causing many casualties, JFLK officials said.

Police then fired tear gas shells and baton charged the crowds to stop them dismantling barbed wire and other obstacles erected by security forces at Kotla Bridge, only four kilometers (2.5 miles) from the border, to stop the marchers.

Officials said the bridge, on the edge of a prohibited zone, was the first hurdle manned by police close to the frontier. Beyond that the army had been deployed in the area up to the Line of Control before Indian-held territory.

A Pakistan military spokesman in Rawalpindi said "if the civilian authorities do not manage to control the situation the army will do its job."

In Muzaffarabad, 50 kilometers (27 miles) from where the clashes occurred, witnesses said the wounded were being ferried by air to local hospitals there. Others were being rushed there by road in dozens of ambulances.

Pakistan has thrown everything at the marchers in a bid to halt their advance. On the other side of the Line of Control, India has said its troops will shoot to kill if they cross.

(In Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, authorities reimposed a curfew Wednesday after security forces opened fire and wounded five people in an effort to quell street protests by Moslem separatists demonstrating their support for the Pakistan marchers).

Qayyum told reporters, "We tried our best to convince them not to create a situation which posed a danger to Pakistan's security."

The JKLF marchers "wanted to create a disaster" between India and Pakistan by escalating tensions, he said, adding, "We can not allow anybody to put Pakistan's security at stake."

Asked if the government planned to take action against the JKLF, Qayyum said "some people would be taken to task after the trouble is over."

The march, led by JKLF head Amanullah Khan, is to show solidarity with militants fighting Indian security forces for the independence of Kashmir, divided after the first Indo-Pakistan war in 1948.

Meanwhile in Islamabad Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday called on India to grant the people of Kashmir the right of self-determination, and indicated for the first time that his government did not rule out the possibility of independence for the whole territory.

Islamabad had always previously insisted that Kashmiris should choose in a plebiscite between India and Pakistan, as resolved by the United Nations after the 1948 war.

Speaking to journalists, Sharif also condemned the JKLF march, saying Khan was "throwing innocent people to the fire."

Asked by AFP if Pakistan would ultimately accept the idea of independence for Kashmir, Sharif replied, "It is for the Kashmiris to decide."

Sharif stressed the Kashmir dispute should be resolved peacefully with India. "We have had three wars and we don't want a fourth," he said.

Sharif noted that his last talks on the problem with his Indian counterpart P.V. Narasimha Rao in Davos, Switzerland, on February 2, had been "very good" and fruitful, saying Rao himself had brought up the question first.

But he warned that Delhi should realise the seriousness of the situation. "Today we can stop it, but another march will take place tomorrow", he said.

In New Delhi, an official spokesman said the Kashmir border was quiet.

"Our security forces are prepared to deal with the situation as it develops. The ground situation, as of now, is peaceful," he told reporters.

The spokesman added that Indian and Pakistani military officials were in touch with each other.

Demonstrations in Indian Kashmir

BK1202025592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir speak of large-scale demonstrations in several areas despite strict curfew restrictions and other steps taken by the occupation forces. The people in Khanyar, Nawabazar, Fatah Qadal, Gina Qadal, Nowhatta, Renabari, Baramula, Anantnag, and Pulwama violated curfew restrictions and came out of their houses. In Srinagar, the people hoisted freedom flags on the streets and gathered in the martyrs graveyard, raising slogans in favor of the plebiscite and condemning Indian atrocities against innocent people. The occupation forces fired tear gas, baton-charged the crowd, and also opened fire to disperse the people.

According to other reports, clashes also took place between freedom fighters and the Indian forces at some places, in which eight people, including five security

personnel, were injured. Women also demonstrated at Fatah Qadal and some other places. Indian forces fired upon these women, seriously wounding many of them. Details of the casualties could not be ascertained because of the strict censorship now in force in the occupied valley.

Nawaz Sharif Urges India To Give Kashmir Rights

BK1202091992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP)—Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday urged India to accord the "right of self-determination" without delay to Kashmir, disclosing that troops were using force to stop a march into the India-held section of the disputed territory.

He told journalists that 17 people had already been injured Wednesday.

He did not rule out ultimate independence for Kashmir, which has been divided into Indian- and Pakistan-controlled sections since 1948.

He said 17 more people were injured Wednesday on the march organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front which seeks independence for Kashmir. One man was killed and 65 injured during the march Tuesday.

Urges International Pressure on India

BK1202114392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has strongly urged the international community to urge India to resolve the Kashmir issue according to UN resolutions and to stop gross violations of human rights in the occupied territory. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. He said the civil [as heard] armed forces of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] government are holding people back and preventing them from crossing the Line of Control in Kashmir since Tuesday [11 February]. The people wish to cross the Line of Control in order to express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir in their struggle against the Indian occupation. They [exhort] the action of the government of AJK in preventing the people from crossing the control line. Seventeen people had been injured in the incident.

The prime minister said they had succeeded in stopping the people from crossing the line, but it is painful to do so. We succeeded in doing so up to now, but they may do it again and again. It will be impossible to stop them all the time. The only way is to get the Kashmir issue resolved once and for all. He asked India to realize the seriousness of the situation. It is in its own interest to resolve the dispute.

Referring to demonstrations by people in support of crossing the control line, he said it was just like to throw the people to Indian fire. He said during his visit to

Muzaffarabad on the 5th of this month, he discussed the issue with the prime minister and the members of the cabinet of AJK and they had agreed that crossing of the control line would not be allowed.

Source Says Indian Army Praises Pakistani Forces

BK1202074092 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The Indian army has thanked the Pakistan army for taking proper steps to prevent the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] activists from crossing the Line of Control.

A highly placed military source said in Islamabad that director general military operations [DGMO] in Pakistan on Tuesday spoke on the hotline with his counterpart in India and informed him that the steps taken on the Pakistani side on the Control Line had proved effective and the plan of JKLF chief Amanullah had been foiled.

The Indian DGMO praised the Pakistan army effort in averting an ugly situation. The Indian general also appreciated the initiative taken by his Pakistani counterpart for contacting him on the hotline.

The source noted the coincidence that the two DGMOs talk to each other on Tuesday.

Quoting a senior military officer who returned in the evening from monitoring the activity along the Line of Control, the source said that 40 km from the Control Line the Azad Kashmir constabulary had erected the first barricade. Beyond that close to the Control Line, Pakistan army had their posts to check any infiltration from the first barricade. But luckily no volunteer was able to make it to that check-point.

According to the source, no serious clashes took place between the constabulary and the JKLF marchers. The frustrated volunteers did throw stones beyond the barricades.

To a question about the number of volunteers who managed to reach the first barrier, the source said the marchers were scattered in groups at various places along the barricade and their members was in hundreds and not thousands.

In the morning hour before the declared 10 am deadline of, crossing great enthusiasm was seen amongst the marchers despite cold weather but as they found their way blocked they became frustrated.

However, by sunset a small number of marchers had managed to cross the first barrier. They were nearly 15 km away from the Control Line despite the fact that the weather had become more cold.

The source said that the 800-km-long Line of Control was porous at various places and if some volunteers were able to cross it that would not be surprising.

About JKLF chief Amanullah Khan, he said the old man looked weary and fatigued because of exhaustion and was unwell. Up to late afternoon Amanullah had not been arrested, the source said.

Official Says Nuclear Program Frozen at 1989 Level

BK1102125592 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Feb 92
p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 10—Pakistan has frozen its nuclear programme at 1989 level and not at last year's level as Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan was quoted to have said in his, now highly controversial, interview to THE WASHINGTON POST published on Feb 7.

"The government last year permanently froze production of highly enriched uranium and weapons "cores", the foreign secretary was quoted to have said in the interview.

When a clarification was sought from the Foreign Office [FO] here on Monday on the difference between the FO's written statement issued on Sunday and the published interview specifically on the matter on N-freeze, a Foreign Office Spokesman maintained that there was no difference between the two and the Foreign Secretary had in fact said "1989 level" and not at last year's level.

It may be recalled that the U.S. had suspended its aid to Pakistan when, President Bush failed to repeat in October 1990 the certificate he had issued in October 1989 and in the preceding years that Pakistan did not possess nuclear weapons.

Following the suspension, the U.S. had been urging Pakistan to roll back its N-programme to the position that existed in 1989.

In the interview Shaharyar Khan was quoted to have said that the Bush Administration, initially skeptical, had accepted Pakistan's assurance on this score.

This is being regarded in the diplomatic circles in Islamabad as very important because in the last 14 months it was being given to understand by various sources that Pakistan had crossed the "critical point" in April 1990.

Bhutto 'Ready for Objective Talks' With Government

BK1102154892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, has said that the opposition is ready for objective talks with the government. Speaking at a reception in Islamabad this afternoon, she, however, criticized the government's policies and said the government, in her opinion, has failed to deal with economic issues, ethnic tension, and political confrontation.